

# **The Diaries of Hiram Corson, M.D.**

(1804 – 1896)

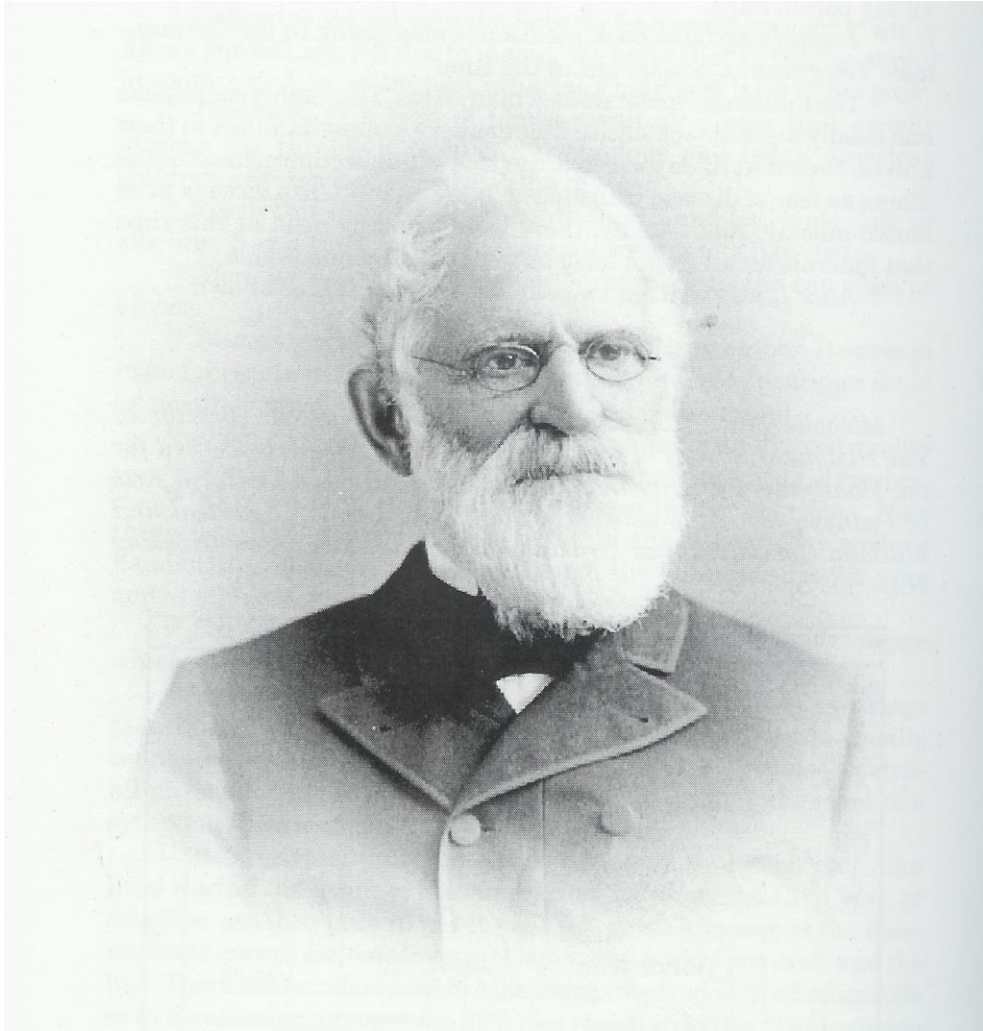
Transcribed, edited and annotated

By

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**Volume I**

**March 31, 1827 – December 31, 1877**



**Hiram Corson, M.D.**

## INTRODUCTION

The diaries of Dr. Hiram Corson give many insights into the man, the society and times in which he lived, the Civil War, and most especially into medical education and the medical profession of the nineteenth century. More than any other man in America, Hiram Corson was responsible for women physicians gaining recognition and being accepted into the medical profession. He was an early champion of education of women physicians and of their subsequent advancement.

Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman in the United States to receive a medical degree (1849), sought admission to medical school in Philadelphia before entering the Geneva Medical College (later to be named Hobart). She was denied admission by all four of the Philadelphia medical schools in existence at that time. About the same time, Dr. Hiram Corson, a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, applied on Sarah Adamson's behalf for admission to the Medical Department of his alma mater and the Jefferson Medical College but without success. Sarah Adamson (Dr. Sarah Adamson Dolley), a niece and student of Hiram Corson, entered a small coeducational medical college in Syracuse, New York and became the second woman in America to receive a medical degree (1851) and that same year was accepted as a resident physician at the Blockley Hospital in Philadelphia.

Dr. Corson led an eleven year campaign which eventually succeeded in forcing the Pennsylvania Medical Society (PMS) and the American Medical Association (AMA) to abandon the Philadelphia County Medical Society (PCMS) policy of disqualifying professors and graduates of women's medical colleges from membership in the Society and prohibiting its members from consulting with professors or graduates of female medical colleges.

Opposition to the entrance of women into the medical profession was great from the beginning but intensified with the successful establishment of the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania. As Dr. Corson stated, "no combined action was taken by the profession against them until eight classes had been graduated and many had established themselves in practice when the Board of Censors of the PCMS reported to the Society its disapproval of any members of the Society holding professional intercourse with the professors or the alumni of the Woman's Medical College." This report of the censors was adopted by the PCMS on November 10, 1858. The PCMS resolution was adopted unanimously by the PMS when it met in Philadelphia in June, 1859. Corson said of the resolution, "it was doubtless believed by its originators and advocates that no physician with proper regard for his success in practice, the friendship of his professional brethren and the honor of the profession would thereafter hold professional intercourse with female physicians." How wrong they were! Dr. Corson went back to the Montgomery County Medical Society (MCMS) which he had founded and started his campaign against the "odious, notorious resolution of 1859," as it was referred to by some. We read in the Minutes of the MCMS under May 26, 1860, the following:

"Dr. H. Corson presented the following preamble and resolution which were adopted by the Society. Whereas, The Philadelphia Co. Med. Soc. has passed a resolution forbidding the members to consult

with the Faculties of Female Colleges, the graduates of these Institutions, and female practitioners generally, and Whereas, The Board of Censors of said Philadelphia Co. Med. Soc. caused these resolutions to be presented to the State Med. Soc. at its last meeting, whereupon a committee to consider them and reported thereon, which committee reported that they believe the course pointed out by these resolutions is a consistent one and such as deserves the sanction of this Society, and they would urge its observance by all County Societies throughout the State, Therefore, Resolved, That it is with regret that we feel ourselves after full and free discussion of the subject, compelled to dissent from the action of the Philadelphia Co. Med. Soc. as we believe that the time has fully come when females should not be excluded from the Medical Profession, and if properly educated and observant of the Code of Medical ethics should receive the same treatment from members of our Profession as the male members thereof. Resolved, That we agree with the late President of the Philadelphia Co. Med. Soc. that there is not any intrinsic reason why women would not perform a part of the toils of the art of healing and that there are no doubt 2 or 4 brilliant examples in the world of women who have justly attained high distinction in medicine, and that they achieved that distinction by means of establishment of high character; but after this admission we do not agree with him in his refusal to recognize our female graduates simply because the college in which they graduated was not the most eminent of Medical institutions. It is selfish and unjust to refuse them admission into our best Medical Colleges, and then by great sacrifice and perseverance they have graduated at a college of their own establishing and which compares favorably with many male colleges in different parts of the Union, withhold from them our recognition of their rightful rank as members of our profession if they recognize and act in accordance with the code of medical ethics. Resolved, That our delegates be instructed to lay this preamble and resolutions before the State Medical Society and ask that they have a place in the minutes of the Society.

At the next PMS meeting, Dr. Corson's resolution was defeated. The Civil War halted all activities in this area. The struggle resumed when the PMS met in Wilkes-Barre in June, 1866, but the rescinders of the notorious 1859 resolution failed again. On April 13, 1867, the MCMS approved another resolution by Dr. Corson, the preamble of which summarizes the state of affairs at that time:

"Whereas, in 1859 the Phila. Co. Med. Soc. passed resolutions forbidding its members to consult with graduates and professors of female medical schools or colleges, which action was approved by the State Society of that year, and other county societies throughout the State were desired to conform to the recommendation of the Phila. Co. Med. Society, and Whereas, at its annual meeting in 1860 the State Medical Society resolved that it is the sense of this society

that members of the medical profession cannot consistently with sound medical ethics consult or hold professional intercourse with professors or graduates of female medical colleges as at present constituted; inasmuch as some of the professors are irregular practitioners and all their colleges are ineligible to membership with the American Medical Association, and Whereas, at the meeting of the State Medical Society held at Wilkesbarre in June, 1866, after an ineffectual attempt to resume the above resolution, Dr. Mowry offered the following: ‘Resolved, That the resolution of 1860 is not intended to prevent the members of this society from consulting with regularly educated female physicians who observe the code of ethics,’ which resolution after much discussion was referred to the County Medical Society; Therefore, Resolved: That in view of the fact that the only Female Medical College in this State is properly organized with an intelligent corps of professors, in possession of good college buildings, with all the appliances necessary for communicating instructions and illustrating the branches of Medical Sciences, that the teachers compare favorably in point of professional intelligence and deportment with professors of male colleges, that the students and graduates are as irreproachable in habits and character, as zealous in the pursuit of knowledge, as capable of comprehending the truth of science and as conscientious in their application of their knowledge to the amelioration of the physical ills of our race, as male students and graduates, that females are as well fitted for the profession as males; we hold it to be illiberal and unworthy the high character of our profession to withhold from them the courtesies awarded to male physicians. Resolved, That while we deeply regret that the members of the Phila. Co. Medical Society deemed it necessary to pause in their investigations of Medical Science to erect barriers against the claim of women to share with us the honor of a noble profession in the name of a common nature and a common destiny, we invite her patience, her fortitude and her devotion to every good work to join us in our strife with disease and death. Resolved, That our delegates to the State Society be instructed to vote for the resolution of Dr. Mowry and to use all honorable exertions to place respectable female graduates and the professors of female Medical Colleges on an equality with male graduates and professors of male Medical Colleges.”

Again, rescinding efforts failed and did so for the next several years. At the 1870 meeting of the PMS it was decided that “the question be laid on the table until the American Medical Association shall have decided on it.” Even before the 1870 PMS meeting, Dr. Hiram Corson proposed Dr. Annie Lukens for membership in the MCMS in March, 1870. In May, 1870, “Miss Annie Lukens was elected a member by ballot” by the MCMS.

At the 1871 AMA meeting in San Francisco, the delegates were split evenly over the issue and nothing was resolved. A few weeks later, the PMS met at Williamsport.

This time, Dr. Corson's forces won. The motion to rescind the notorious resolution of the Philadelphia County Medical Society and adopted in 1859 by the Pennsylvania Medical Society passed by a vote of 55 to 45. The eleven-years contest, marked by bitterness and scorn for Dr. Hiram Corson, the MCMS, and all those who sought justice for women physicians, was finally over. Organized opposition to women physicians came to an end nationwide.

Not surprisingly, Hiram Corson was also an abolitionist. His sense of justice caused him to respond to many issues undaunted by reprisals or scorn. Yet he thought of himself as belonging to a certain rank in society, as evidenced in his diary by his refusal to take his dinner at the same table with a coachman. This fact alone throws an interesting light on the existence of social distinctions in democratic America. Dr. Corson's public awareness throughout his long life is reflected in his diaries, which contain a treasure of information.

For more than thirty years he worked for the better care for the mentally ill. In 1877, Pennsylvania Governor Hartranft appointed Dr. Hiram Corson to the Board of Trustees of the State Lunatic Asylum at Harrisburg "in recognition of his life-long interest and zealous efforts in behalf of the insane."

Of his many contributions, his leadership in the struggle for the education of women physicians and their recognition as equals within the medical profession has earned Hiram Corson a prominent and honorable place in the annals of medicine.

Dr. Corson's diaries consist of fifteen numbered books and one entitled "Hiram Corson, Student of Medicine."

### **HIRAM CORSON, STUDENT OF MEDICINE**

(Hiram Corson began his medical studies on May 4, 1826, and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania on March 5, 1828. He started making entries in his diary on March 31, 1827).

## **1827**

March 31: Saturday.

I received of my father one hundred and fifty dollars, and Wm. [William Corson, his younger brother] then brought me to New Hope to remain the summer again with Dr. Corson.<sup>i</sup>

April 1: Sunday.

Wm. went home. Mr. Vanhorn<sup>ii</sup> and I rode down to Col. Taylor's in a very fine barouche with 2 horses and Negro driver. We then took the two girls and went almost to Trenton. Came back. Spoke then till one o'clock at night and came home. Beautiful girls.

April 2: Monday.

Studied very little. Paid the Dr. his medical fee of 10 dollars and five interest.

April 3: Tuesday.

Read a good deal.

April 4: Wednesday.

Read in the forenoon. Rode to Trego's in the afternoon.

April 8: Sunday.

Mr. Vanhorn and I went to Meeting. Very pleasant day.

April 11: Wednesday.

Read. Peach and cherry trees in bloom.

April 12: Thursday.

Rode with the Dr. nearly all day.

April 13: Friday.

Rode in the forenoon. Mr. Vanhorn stroked Miss Hudnet twice last Sunday. I sent a letter to Helen Woglom yesterday. Every tree almost is in bloom.

April 15: Sunday.

Somewhat rainy in the forenoon. Read on surgery. In the afternoon went to the top of Goat Hill with Sarah Moore. Rode out in the evening to see Seneca Ely with Typhus and Miss Paxson with bilious remittent fever, Dr. having enjoyed in another place. This is Easter.

April 16: Monday.

I mailed 2 letters, one to William and one to Miss Jane Jones. I read a great deal this day. The people about New Hope played ball for Easter Monday. This day James McNair commenced reading in the Drs. Office. He has been reading at his home those 5 or 6 months.

April 17: Tuesday.

Read anatomy which I have been at above one week and feel pretty well prepared upon it.

April 18: Wednesday.

Read all day. Read French occasionally every day.

April 19: Thursday.

I read anatomy in the day time and some of the other books at night till 10 o'clock and got up before sun rise. I do not get to walk so much as usual this year so far and am already labouring under that pain, a disagreeable feeling which I had last summer.

April 20: Friday.

I received a letter from William who states that Sally is not much better, that Polly Alan has a daughter & Molloy Adamson a Son. Read all day.

April 21: Saturday.

I read till noon. I went in the afternoon to Abraham Jenkins.

April 22: Sunday.

Went from Abraham Jenkins to Simpson's, from there to Meeting (Presbyterian). To New Hope in afternoon.

April 25: Wednesday.

Read a good deal Anatomy and Surgery. Expect to go to the city in the morning.

April 26: Thursday.

8 o'clock. Started to the city with Miss Corson & Vanhorn. Got there at 2. Staid all night at Woglom's.

April 27: Friday.

Took Miss Hannah, Helen & Jane Woglom out riding over the Schuylkill. Stopped to see my brother Joseph. Came back. Took tea at Miss Woglom's and then went over to my brother Joseph about 100 yds. From Market at Bridge. Staid all night.

April 28: Saturday.

Rainy morning. Walked into town (bought watch seal & key yesterday, \$5.50, breast pin \$1). Started from Phila. at 12 o'clock. Got to Plymouth at 4 o'clock.

April 29: Sunday.

Went to Meeting. Started home at 2 o'clock. Stopped at Evan farms about an hour. Got to New Hope after sunset.

May 1: Tuesday.

Read. Visited a boy with pleurisy [and] a Miss Paxson.

May 3: Thursday.

Read. James McNair has not been here for about one week and Vanhorn stays with Sally Merrick every night. Oliver Parry was married on Tuesday and brought his wife up this day, a splendid home bringing.

May 4: Friday.

Read. Visited Miss Paxson and boy with pleurisy for Dr.

May 5: Saturday.

Read. Found out this day that there was a hackney coach driver from Phila. eating with us. I would not eat supper with him.

May 6: Sunday.

Also did without my breakfast. Got a headache violently by not eating. The coachee went away and I ate dinner determined not to board here longer.



May 8: Tuesday.

Read. Still attending to my patients. Have 3 at present.

May 9: Wednesday.

This morning commenced boarding with Mrs. Fuss, widow of Dr. David Fuss.

May 11: Friday.

Read. Visited Mr. Ely with pleurisy and Miss Paxson for Dr., besides my own patients.

May 13: Sunday.

Read 40 pages French children abbey [*The Children of the Abbey*]. Wrote a letter to Wm., went the forenoon [and] walked with Mrs. Corson to the farm. Introduced by her to Miss Randolph. Joseph Bell and William Watson came to see me this evening.

May 15: Tuesday.

Bled a woman and then went to the parade at Newtown with Mr. Vanhorn where I saw several ladies [to] whom I was introduced, &c.

May 16: Wednesday.

Read in the forenoon. Mrs. Corson and I went to the funeral of Mrs. Jane Poor in [the] afternoon. Uncle Amos' daughter, aged about 17 [and] who was helpless, was also buried this day. Mr. Vanhorn lost Dr. Corson's silver spurs yesterday at the parade. Supposed to be stolen. He went there this day and advertised there. Bled 2 women after I came home.

May 17: Thursday.

Sat this morning for the purpose of having my portrait taken by Samuel Noon Junior who is to trust me for 1 or 3 years.

May 20: Sunday.

Wrote a letter to Edwin C. Leedom in forenoon; also sat for my portrait and read 100 pages [of] Rush's<sup>iii</sup> *Introductory Lectures*. Went to Meeting in the afternoon.

May 21: Monday.

Read. Very rainy. Went to Uncle Joshua.

May 22: Tuesday.

Read. Very unwell.

May 24: Thursday.

Read. Took 10 grs. Cal. [calomel]. Sat for my portrait. [Took] large dose of salts.

May 25: Friday.

Read. Vaccinated some children, say 3. Some other practice.

May 26: Saturday.

Middling unwell. [Took] 10 grs. Cal. at noon. In the afternoon took Mrs. Corson to Fell's. George and Jont. Maulsby were here when I came home. Went to bed about 11 o'clock.

May 27: Sunday.

Went to Lambertsville Meeting. Took dinner with the Dr. Went to Uncle Joshua in afternoon. I came home in evening and went home with Elizabeth Maris who was at Doctor's. First time I was at Maris'. Went to bed about 11 o'clock.

May 28: Monday.

Called this morning about 3 o'clock by Sam Edwards, Black Man, to put his wife to bed. I rode about one and half miles and did it, delivered in about 2 hours after I got there of a very large female child. All went on very well. This is my first case of this kind, the second child this woman even had. George and Jont. started from here for home at 12 o'clock. Visited the woman in the afternoon. All well. Bled 3 folks today.

May 30: Wednesday.

Read. Rode with Dr. 10 miles into Jersey to see a blind child. Saw ladies at Dr.'s in afternoon and evening. I escorted Miss Mary Randolph home. Lent Vanhorn 3 dollars.

May 31: Thursday.

Read about 3-5 pages then I went to Buckingham Quarterly Meeting where there were thousands of people. They had quite a quarrel among the Hicksites<sup>iv</sup> and the Orthodox. I staid in. Then took dinner at Byer's. Then went to Aaron Ely's where I saw Lewis Jones, Martha Maulsby, Merct. Maulsby and Cynthia Jones. Rode with Martha to John Byer's and then came home after sunset.

June 1: Friday.

The farm people spoke of corn to Dr. this day. Went away in the evening.

June 2: Saturday.

Read. Finished reading Dewees'<sup>v</sup> *Midwifery*. That book was all I read this week.

June 3: Sunday.

Dr. and I went to Plymouth. Arrived about 1 o'clock at Maulsby. Went home and staid all night. Sister Sarah [is] much better; has rode out 3 times.

June 9: Saturday.

Read in the forenoon. Read both volumes of Gibson's this week besides French, &c. In the afternoon Mr. John McNair and I went to Mr. Maris' to pay a visit to the young ladies. Staid till almost eleven at night as it rained all the evening till that time. I went in the forenoon 4 miles down the river to see a young man whose leg was said to be broken. I pronounced it a fracture of the Tibia but they thought it was not broken

probably, and it was left for the Dr. to see. There was not a perceptible derangement of the bones scarcely. He pronounced it a fracture.

June 10: Sunday.

Went to Meeting [in] Lambertsville. In the afternoon rode to Charles Fell's with Smith Ely.

June 12: Tuesday.

Read. Also read *The Last of the Mohicans*, a novel by Cooper.

June 14: Thursday.

Read *Practice*. Went to a party of Oliver Parry's to which I was invited. Had a most violent rain.

June 15: Friday.

Read *Practice* and *The Prairie*, a novel by Cooper.

June 16: Saturday.

Finished *Prairie*. Spent the evening with Miss Maris.

June 19: Tuesday.

Read. Went in the evening to Mr. Parry's to escort Mrs. Corson and Miss Hampton home.

June 20: Wednesday.

Capt. John Cleves Symmes<sup>vi</sup> lectured upon the new theory of "World within World" in the Academy this evening for 18 ¼ cts. each. I and about ½ doz. others attended. He has been sick about eleven weeks at Trenton and is very poor. He is very much in want of money to carry him home. His theory is plausible and so well supported by facts that I am a convert to it. He is [a] man apparently about 50 years of age, perhaps more, very dark complexion, about 5 feet 10 inches in height, weight, I would think about 170 lbs., of an awkward appearance, far from being eloquent, and with an expression the most unprepossessing.

June 21: Thursday.

Read. Capt. Symmes lectured at Lambertsville. I attended with about 30 others, pay as much as you please. I gave 25 cents. It is remarkable that there was not a single person from New Hope, but myself went to Lambertsville to hear him, and when he lectured in the New Hope Academy there was not any but Samuel Moore Jr., his boy and myself from the town to hear him. Many were restrained by Thomas Johnson Esq., Dr.'s father-in-law, who pronounced the theory most absurd. Others [were restrained] by their narrow, contracted and ignorant minds not being willing to sanction anything which appears like an innovation upon ideas which they imbibed in their youth.

Caroline got her arm broken yesterday.

June 22: Friday.

Read a good deal. We had a very hard rain this morning. It is a fact that there has not been a single rain this season that has not been followed by high wind. Evening. The wind [is] very high and the air extremely cold for this time of year. It is quite uncomfortable without [a] fire.

June 24: Sunday.

Went to Lambertsville Meeting and got sick and came out. Got better. Spent the evening with Miss Maris.

June 27: Wednesday.

Very unwell.

June 29: Friday.

Quite unwell. Attended the examination of the children at the academy. Very warm. Jont. Maulsby came here in the evening. I went to Uncle Joshua's with him. Staid all night.

June 30: Saturday.

Came to New Hope about 7 o'clock. Quite unwell. Jont. went home. I read. Set a man's arm in the afternoon, fracture of the ulna. Spent the evening with Miss Couch at Lamberts.

July 1: Sunday.

A case of Cholera Morbus<sup>vii</sup> in the morning, gave opium. Went to Presbyterian Meeting and to hear Edward Hicks in the afternoon at Meldrum's in the ballroom. Preached very well. Spent the evening at Mr. Couch's. Took a dose of calomel on going to bed. Very amazing[ly] hot.

July 4: Wednesday.

An oration delivered here by Jefferson Kinsey. A dinner taken, &c. Not very well. Sat one hour for my portrait. Read 200 pages [of] Rush's work and saw fireworks in the evening.

July 5: Thursday.

Morning. Unwell. Took salts. Read 300 pages.

June 6: Friday.

Read in the afternoon 200 pages [of] Rush. Went to Uncle Joshua in afternoon.

June 7: Saturday.

Finished the 4<sup>th</sup> vol. of Rush, having read them all this week, being in all about 1400 pages, besides 2 or 3 hundred [pages] of French in *The Children of the Abbey*. Spent part of the afternoon at Maris' with Elizabeth. Miss Jane Poor came to Dr.'s to stay four days. She is the most amiable of her sex. I feel pretty well this day. Got a letter from Wm. yesterday.

July 8: Sunday.

Rained very much. Mr. Corson, Miss Poor and I went to Meeting at Lambertsville. In the evening went to academy here.

July 10: Tuesday.

Read. Spent the evening at Maris'.

July 13: Friday.

Dr. and Vanhorn went to the city. I attended to practice. Some cases of Cholera Morbus. I went to Charles Fell's in the evening.

July 14: Saturday.

My great pain in my head. Took dose of Cal. Called about 10 o'clock to a case of broken thigh bone in a child of about 4 years of age. I reduced and dressed it with splints extending from the Hind to the heel. I intend putting on Gibson's [splints] when Dr. comes home. Dr. came home with Mrs. Paxson and her children this afternoon about 3 o'clock.

July 15: Sunday.

Wrote a letter to Charles Fronefield. Read some French, some scripture, &c. Attended to several patients. I feel better than I done for some days. I eat no meat now and very little of anything.

July 16: Monday.

Put Gibson's splints on the thigh. Read some. Dull day. Haven't paid Mrs. Fuss any board since last Wednesday morning. Settled this up till the 18<sup>th</sup> of August.

July 18: Wednesday.

Read a great deal. Very warm. In the afternoon Dr. and I went to Trenton to hear the trial in the Court of Chancery between Wm. Maris and Gershom Lambert respecting the injunction. Governor Williamson presided as Judge or Chancellor.

July 19: Thursday.

We attended again. Heard some pleading by Lawyers Stockton, Wood, Wall, &c.

July 20: Friday.

Mr. Vanhorn went with Sally Merrick to Allentown in the stage to be gone several days. He was afraid to trust her to go alone.

July 21: Saturday.

Read in the forenoon. In the afternoon I went with Mrs. Corson & Mrs. Paxson to Esq. Johnson. Got home in the evening.

July 22: Sunday.

Went to Meeting in the forenoon, to Uncle Joshua in the afternoon. There, sat so

much with talking about those two weeks. Put Dessault splints on that [child's leg].

July 26: Thursday.

Went to Thomas Paxson with Mrs. Corson & Mrs. Paxson. Went to Dr. Wilson, from there to see Bill Watson. My nose bled.

July 27: Friday.

Read. Head very dizzy. Nose bled 2 or 3 times this day. Read all day.

July 28: Saturday.

Morning. Bled at the arm. Read. Mr. Jacob Kenderdine, who is expected [to] marry Mrs. Paxson, came up today with Dadry Clark. I was bled again in the evening almost to fainting.

July 29: Sunday.

Morning. Very weak, so much so that I could hardly walk. We all went to Thomas Paxson's in [the] afternoon. The ride seemed to help me.

July 30: Monday.

Morning. We were informed of the death of Mrs. Paxson, wife of Timothy Paxson & sister to Mr. Johnson who died last evening and is to be buried tomorrow morning. Mr. Johnson, Mrs. Corson, Dadry Clark and I went down. Kenderdine and Eliz. went together. We got in town about 6 o'clock in the evening.

July 31: Tuesday.

Morning. Went from Woglom's, where I staid all night, to brother Joseph D. Corson. Came back. Took dinner at Robert Johnson's. Left the city at 3 o'clock and got home before 12 at night. Bought Bell<sup>viii</sup> on the Nerves, 87 ½.

August 1: Wednesday.

Morning. Got up at 9 o'clock. Read Bell on the Nerves, 160 pages, with great interest.

August 2: Thursday.

Began my Thesis. Those 3 last days have been intensely warm, the thermometer today standing at 96 degrees in the evening. Visited Miss Sprouls who I believe has prolapsus uteri.

August 5: Sunday.

Did not go to Meeting. Intensely warm. Rode up the river four miles with Mrs. Corson & Mrs. Paxson in the evening.

August 6: Monday.

Read and wrote off my Thesis again, reviewing and amending. This is considered to be the hottest day there has been yet this summer. I went according to

invitation to Mr. Maris' to tea about seven o'clock. There were several ladies there. The party continued to stick together till nearly 12 o'clock.

August 7: Tuesday.

Finished my Thesis again. It is not quite perfect yet. Not nearly so hot as those few days past.

August 8: Wednesday.

Mrs. Corson, Mrs. Paxson, her children and I went to Princeton, got there about eleven o'clock to Dr. Stockton. I passed all through the college.

August 9: Thursday.

With Miss Craig, Miss Stockton and another woman, I took to ride round the neighborhood of Princeton. Very warm. Got home about 9 o'clock at night.

August 10: Friday.

Pain in my side this morning. Went to Uncle Joshua's in the forenoon to see if Sarah would go to Hickorytown with me. In the afternoon got ready to go and read a little. In the evening went down there with Dr.'s horse.

August 11: Saturday.

6 o'clock [I] started. Got to Uncle Richard's and staid till 3 o'clock. Got home at 8 o'clock. Began to rain when we were within one mile of home. This is the first rain we have had those four weeks of any account.

August 13: Monday.

Sarah and I went to Uncle Thomas', from there to C. Adamson.

August 14: Tuesday.

[Went] to Yellow Springs, then back to Adamson's. Took dinner, then [went] to Charles Corson's. Took tea, then [went] home.

August 15: Wednesday.

[In the] morning went down to see Edwin C. Leedom. Afternoon, went to see my brother Alan.

August 16: Thursday.

Took Sarah to Alan's and Captain Davis' in the afternoon.

August 17: Friday.

Arrived at Uncle Richard's at 1 o'clock, at Uncle Joshua's at 6 in the evening, at New Hope at 8 at night. Father gave me 30 dollars this morning.

August 18: Saturday.

Read till four o'clock in the afternoon, then visited five patients several miles

down the river and about a dozen more about New Hope. One of those was a case of Trism[u]s, another was crazy [sic]. Got to bed at 12 o'clock at night.

August 19: Sunday.

Rose at 5 o'clock. Visited about 25 patients this day. Returned early. Very tired. Headache.

August 20: Monday.

Morning. Head feels bad. Feel very drowsy. If I attempt to read I fall asleep. Visited some in the forenoon. Called to a man who was suffocated in a well in the afternoon. Bled him, &c. Riding the horse very fast made my head much worse. Took this afternoon all together 8 pills aa. grs. ix. Operated a little.

August 21: Tuesday.

Had a miserable night of sleep last night, very nearly fainting several times. Head ached violently. Morning a little better. Still feel sick and head painful. Afternoon, took an effervescing draught.

August 22: Wednesday.

Rested better last night. My head better this morning. Took 8 grs. Cal. at seven o'clock, 5 grs. at 10 o'clock, 5 at 1 o'clock, a dose of Cal. & Jalap at 4 o'clock. All don't operate. Took 3 effervescing draughts in the evening.

August 23: Thursday.

Took another draught this morning. Still no operation. The Dr. now gave me sixty grs. Calomel. I am very much afraid I shall be salivated. About four o'clock yesterday I had a chill. The medicine operated 16 or 20 times today. Very sick this evening.

August 24: Friday.

Had a chill. Took a puke as it was coming on. Very sick at night and all night & mouth getting sore.

August 25: Saturday.

Feel quite well. Mouth quite sore on one side or rather my tongue. Don't spit much. Read some this day. Very cloudy day. Took about 4 grs. quinine this day.

August 26: Sunday.

Edwin C. Leedom and merchant Maulsby came up here this morning. Very rainy day. My mouth [is] better. I had a chill about four o'clock.

August 27: Monday.

Had a miserable night of it again last night. Mr. Varian sleeps in the room with me and is very attentive to me. I feel much better this day, took about 6 grs. quinine in solution this day.



August 28: Tuesday.

Took four grs. this forenoon. Missed my chill this afternoon. I am extremely weak.

August 29: Wednesday.

Took a few grs. quinine.

August 30: Thursday.

Read a good deal. Missed my chill. The back of my head pains me a good deal and seems to be a stiffness of the muscles of the back of the neck and head. Missed my chill.

September 1: Saturday.

Read a good deal. Wrote a letter to my father. Sent it by Samuel Moore.

September 2: Sunday.

Went to Meeting. It is extremely warm. Still taking quinine.

September 3: Monday.

Doctor went to the city to take Caroline to a French school kept by a Monsieur Picot, tuition \$75 for one quarter. I visited all the patients down the river and about the village this day. Very warm. Mrs. Corson taken with a bilious fever last Sunday. Very poorly this day. I am much fatigued this evening.

September 4: Tuesday.

Engaged in the practice busily all day. Ben Henry got mashed in between the water wheel and wall, had his head much bruised and the clavicle broken up at the articulation with the acromion. I bled him and put on the dressing for fractured clavicle.

September 5: Wednesday.

Read a little in the morning, then rode all day with the Doctor.

September 7: Friday.

Read anatomy which I have been doing all this week. Practiced a good deal.

September 8: Saturday.

Read anatomy. Commenced writing a dipictation [sic] on the Intermittent Fever as it appeared at New Hope in the summer of 1827.

September 9: Sunday.

Went to Jonathan Ely's with Dr. I think Elizabeth will die in one or two days. Went over the river with him to Chilister. Have him introduce the catheter [catheterized Chilister]. Dr. Morris Lancaster and William Watson came here this afternoon. This evening I saw something in the Northern part of sky which appeared like the tail of a comet. It appeared as though one hundred yards long, five or six wide and tapering to both

ends. It started high in the northern part of the heaven and moved off towards the west where it disappeared beneath the horizon. This was about 9 o'clock at night.

September 10: Monday.

Felt tolerably well. A pain in the right shoulder and sallow complexion induced the Doctor to think I have hepatitis and advised me to take small doses of Calomel every night to be worked off in the morning. I shall commence immediately with it. Read anatomy. Visited patients, &c.

September 11: Tuesday.

Read *Practice of Medicine*. Visited Miss Ely with Doctor. We both thought it probable she could die before one day more passed. Took my Cal. gr.ij & opium one gr., hs, followed by salts in six hours. Doctor wants me to salivate myself. I do not agree to it.

September 12: Wednesday.

Miss Ely better. Doctor gave her quinine this evening. Read. Visited, &c, reading Thomas' *Practice*.

September 13: Thursday.

Reading *Practice of Medicine*. Took my Cal., &c. Still taking quinine. Doctor gave me several quires of paper.

September 14: Friday.

Finished Thomas' *Practice*. Commenced chemistry. Visited Miss Ely again this evening. Found her as I think weaker, her pulse being small and about 80 in a minute. Last night it was fuller and 88 in a minute. I think she must be sinking although they think her much better and in fact she looks better. Gave her six gr. quinine in solution to take tonight. The Doctor sees her every morning and I in the evening. Very warm this day. I finished reading *Tristram Shandy* this day. Doctor promised [that] if I would read both vols., he would give me a new jacket. Varian, my room mate, has taken sick this day.

September 15: Saturday.

Mr. Varian quite poorly. I read a good deal. Stopped to see Elizabeth Maris this evening about 5 minutes. Jonathan Maulsby and Richard Byer came to see me this evening. I had an attack of intermittent fever in the form of violent pain in the bones which came on me while they were here. Violent fever succeeded it.

September 16: Sunday.

High fever till nearly day this morning. Felt tolerably well all this day. Took six grs. quinine. Varian still quite unwell.

September 17: Monday.

Commenced writing my Thesis on Thesis paper. Visited patients, &c. Posted books with Vanhorn.

September 18: Tuesday.

Vanhorn and I posted for Doctor.

September 19: Wednesday.

Did the same. Drank a great deal of sherry and brandy both days. I was taken this day with a severe pain over my liver (or rather in the hypochondric right region) and from the symptoms I suppose it to be in the liver. I was confined to bed all the afternoon, took 10 grs. calomel in the evening with one gr. opium.

September 20: Thursday.

Morning. Pain still continues. Took dose [of] castor oil [which] operated finely, bringing away much bilious matter. Felt much relieved in the afternoon. The pain having ceased. My head seeming middling. Weak though. Took an opiate in the evening. Mr. Varian [is] well.

September 21: Friday.

Feel tolerably well. Walked out some this day and read a little. Packed up my clothes and books and had them removed to the Doctors where I am going to live from now till lectures. I then got in with Amos and rode home with him.

September 22: Saturday.

Rainy forenoon. Amos and I went to Uncle Richard's in the afternoon.

September 23: Sunday.

Morning. Went to Southampton Meeting. Came home. In the evening sparked Trego's girls till eleven o'clock.

September 24: Monday.

Got to New Hope about 12 o'clock, very tired. Slept till 3 o'clock. Dr. Randolph commenced practice here this day.

September 25: Tuesday.

Wrote at my Thesis. Rode out, &c.

September 28: Friday.

Rode with Vanhorn to Southampton, from there to the Billet, from there to Taylor's ferry, then home. Then visited patients 6 miles off which kept me till midnight. Very tired.

September 29: Saturday.

Very tired. Visited patients. Put up medicine, &c., till 4 o'clock, then began writing and finishing my Thesis.

September 30: Sunday.

Put up medicine till noon, then took Mrs. Corson to the city. Staid all night at Woglom's.

October 1: Monday.

Went to Joseph C. Corson's. Took breakfast, came back to the city, bought medicine, procured vaccine matter, &c., and arrived at Maulsby's at 5 o'clock [in the] afternoon.

October 2: Tuesday.

Staid last night at father's. Started this morning ten o'clock for New Hope. Arrived at 3 o'clock. Doctor got thrown from the sulky and [was] hurt yesterday. The single tree came loose and, of course, the shafts fell down.

October 4: Thursday.

Started at day light to put a woman to bed with her first child. Slept till almost sunset.

October 7: Sunday.

Went to Uncle Joshua in afternoon with John Meredith.

October 8: Monday.

Read and visited patients. I am this day 23 years of age.

October 9: Tuesday.

Rainy. Read in the forenoon. Went to the election in the afternoon. Did not vote. Have never voted yet, nor been taxed.

October 14: Sunday.

Went to Meeting in Lambertsville this day, to Maris' in the afternoon. Vanhorn went along for the first time in his life.

October 15: Monday.

Read a good deal of anatomy. Visited some patients. Vanhorn got terribly affronted at the Dr. Vanhorn is very mean as he tries to favour Charles Randolph and injure Dr. Corson as much as he can.

October 18: Thursday.

Read, &c. The weather is very fine. My temptations to commit adultery are very strong but I withstand them. Visited the patients down the river.

October 19: Friday.

Read, &c. John Meldrum had a drunken fit this morning. He is about 18 years of age.

October 20: Saturday.

Read, made pills, &c. The Indian summer seems to prevail this week.

October 21: Sunday.

Mrs. Corson and I went to Charles Fell's in the afternoon. Commenced raining

just as we got home in the evening. I went to Quaker Meeting in the forenoon for the first time this summer.

October 22: Monday.

Very rainy; rained all day powerfully. Read. Vanhorn does not come to the office.

October 26: Friday.

Morning. Wm. arrived at New Hope for me. We rode to Ruckman's in the afternoon. Vanhorn and he went then in the evening a sparking.

October 27: Saturday.

Wm. and I came home to father's. Quite cool.

October 28: Sunday.

I went to Plymouth Meeting, sparked Martha Maulsby in the evening.

October 29: Monday.

Put away my skeleton.

October 30: Tuesday.

Went to the city on horse back. Headache all day. Got back as far as John Hegy's and went to bed. Slept four or 5 hours then got home again 10 o'clock at night.

November 2: Friday.

Went to Uncle Rex's. Bled Hannah. Cleaned her teeth, &c. Edwin C. Leedom and I rode to Norristown in the afternoon.

November 4: Sunday.

Wm. brought me to the falls in the afternoon and I walked from there to the city, and from there to Joseph Corson. Staid all night.

November 5: Monday.

Morning. Walked into the city. Heard a lecture at the New School and two of the introductory lectures of the old school. Commenced boarding at Mrs. Woglom's, No. 149 North Ninth St., where I boarded last winter at \$3 per week (got a new blk. Coat, a new grey English coat, and a new vest at home).

November 6: Tuesday.

Heard two introductory lectures. Heard Robt. Patterson's<sup>ix</sup> introductory on natural philosophy last night.

November 7: Wednesday.

Mr. Robert Rodgers of Shippensburg, Pa., commenced boarding with [us] as my room mate.

November 11: Sunday.

Morning. Went to Mrs. Paxson's. Her intended, Mr. Kenderdine, is very poorly.

November 12: Monday.

Took my tickets. Visited Robert Potts, merchant, to get a check exchanged for 130 dollars. Attended lectures. Commenced dissecting this night with Robert Rodgers, Hugh Meredith & Mr. Rose from Virginia.

November 14: Wednesday.

Going to the alms house at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 9 o'clock, between 10<sup>th</sup> and Eleventh Sts. In Market, I was taken with a violent palpitation at my heart. I walked on slowly till I got home to the alms house, although I was sometimes forced to stop. It continued the whole way and for about 10 minutes after I got there. It is to be remembered that at this time I had a very bad cold.

November 16: Friday.

Attended lectures. Walked out to J.D. Corson after [the] lectures, borrowed ten dollars and then returned to dissect.

November 17: Saturday.

Went to alms house and to the University. Dissected in afternoon.

November 18: Sunday.

Wrote off my Thesis in the forenoon. Went to Mrs. Paxson's in afternoon, then wrote a letter to Dr. Corson. Took it to office and spent the evening at home.

November 19: Monday.

Attended all the lectures, six in number. Quit eating meat on account of great heat of stomach which attacks me every day after eating. Dissect[ed] 10 o'clock at night. Read till 12 o'clock.

November 22: Thursday.

Rose at 5 o'clock. Attended all the lectures. Dissected at night till 9 o'clock, then attended a quizzing company composed of Mr. Vanhorn, Rodgers, Peters, Johnson, Lippincot[t] and myself, till 12 o'clock. Two young men, Mr. Ogdon from Alabama and Mr. Van Buskirk from Phila., fought in Dr. Chap[man]'s<sup>x</sup> room this day about a seat. Went to bed at 12 o'clock.

November 24: Saturday.

Attended alms house, lectures, &c., also Gibson's quiz.

November 25: Sunday.

Did not go to Meeting. Went to Joseph D. Corson's in the evening.

November 30: Friday.

Doctor Corson came to see me this evening about 11 o'clock. I then went with him to Mrs. Paxson's and got back at 1 o'clock.

December 1: Saturday.

Attended alms house. Rode about with the Doctor after lectures were over in the afternoon. In the evening Rodgers and I had oysters.

December 2: Sunday.

Morning. Went to Mrs. Paxson's. Then Doctor and I walked about a little and he went home, and I went to Green Street Quaker Meeting. Walked about in the afternoon, also to Joseph D. Corson.

December 5: Wednesday.

Cox[e]'s quiz.<sup>xi</sup>

December 7: Friday.

Received 30 dollars of William.

December 8: Saturday.

Attended the alms house, &c. In the evening I went to Doctor Gibson's to a party. There were about forty men present, among them were Commodores Bainbridge & Hall, Captains Morris and Craighton, and many other distinguished men as Mr. Carter, author of the letters from Europe, Mr. Wood, manager of the Phila. Theater, &c. We had a splendid entertainment. Broke up about 11 o'clock.

December 9: Sunday.

Went to Janeway Meeting in the forenoon, walked about in the after part, also over to J. D. Corson.

December 11: Tuesday.

Attended all the lectures, also Dewees's quiz. Last night about 11 o'clock I had severe spasmodic pains in my right lumbar region, lasted about 10 minutes, very violent. Took a dose of salts this evening.

December 12: Wednesday.

Attended Hare's<sup>xii</sup> quiz, alms house, lectures, &c. Dr. Jackson<sup>xiii</sup> lectured this afternoon.

December 21: Friday.

Attended lectures. An attack of colic again about one o'clock. Feel very wretched. Took dose of Cal. and Sal., in the evening; operated powerfully.

December 22: Saturday.

Morning. Very weak. Went to Dr. Gibson's quiz. Snowed last night.

December 23: Sunday.

Read in the forenoon a little. I went to see Caroline Corson. Started for New Hope from Mrs. Paxson's. In the evening [went] to Joseph D. Corson's, and then to Meeting.

December 24: Monday.

Attended lectures till 2 o'clock in the afternoon then went out to Joseph D. Corson's and rode his horse to Hickorytown. Got there in the evening.

December 25: Thursday.

Christmas. I just weigh one hundred and 44 lbs. Went to Alan's this day. At 2 o'clock in the afternoon brother George and I started for the city in which we arrived about sunset, quite stiff. George went to the Theater for the first time in his life.

December 26: Wednesday.

Attended lectures. George attended with me.

December 27: Thursday.

I have had for several days pain in my left side just under my arm pit, which would continue for several minutes and be very severe. To prevent it, I put on a large plaster (called warm plaster) last night.

December 29: Saturday.

Attended Gibson's quiz. I have not been stumped by any of the professors since I came to town, though I attended all the examinations. I commonly sit up till twelve o'clock at night and rise at six in the morning. Dull day.

December 30: Sunday.

Went to Silent Methodist Meeting in 4<sup>th</sup> Street, to Joseph D. Corson in the evening, also to Chambers Meeting. Dull day.

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January 1: Tuesday.

Attended lectures. Dull day.

January 9: Wednesday.

I deposited my Thesis on Tetanus with Dr. Horner<sup>xiv</sup> and drew my number which proved to be 26. I felt very disagreeable when I went to draw my number knowing that I had only studied about 20 months, and that the law said I must study 3 years.

January 13: Sunday.

Went to Quaker Meeting in the forenoon, to see Miss Ruckman in the evening, but she was not in. I then went to Skinner's Meeting.



January 17: Thursday.

Attended lectures. Sent Doctor Corson a pair of gig lamps, price 8 dollars. Dull day.

January 18: Friday.

Attended lectures. Henry Spade, grandson of Governor Heister, died yesterday of consumption. His remains were conveyed the same day to Harrisburgh. He was attending lectures this winter.

January 19: Saturday.

Very rainy. Attended lectures. I got vaccinated this afternoon by Doctor James,<sup>xv</sup> being fearful of taking the small pox many of the students have it.

January 20: Sunday.

Clear and somewhat cold. There has not been two clear days hardly those 2 months past. [Went] to see Miss Ruckman this afternoon, also to see Miss Sarah Maris at Doctor Horner's. I have felt quite unwell all day. Rodgers also unwell. We are somewhat fearful of the small pox.

January 24: Thursday.

Attended lectures. Saw my friend John McNair this evening, who has just returned from a travel of 3 months.

January 30: Wednesday.

Cox[e]'s quiz, and then the lectures. Mr. Hugh Meredith<sup>xvi</sup> of Doylestown was knocked down by a certain Grizzle from Virginia while coming up the stairs on the anatomical room without any warning, being affronted because Mr. Meredith having asked him to take off his hat at the alms house when Dr. Gibson was operating, and he not being willing to do it, knocked it off. Grizzle<sup>xvii</sup> was armed with a sword cane, a pistol and dirk. I am so much provoked that I can't study and feel as if I could fight any body that dare speak in favor of the cursed villain.

January 31: Thursday.

Meredith got bled yesterday and did not come to lectures this day.

February 1: Friday.

Attended lectures. Meredith came to Gibson's lectures and as soon as it was over, he and his opponent met. Meredith knocked him down, and they were parted, and Grizzle well armed at the time. Meredith has complained to the professors on matters. They have taken notice of the affair and Meredith is to bring forth his evidence against the other on Monday.

February 2: Saturday.

This day Mr. or, as he was called, Father Eastburn was laid in his Silent Mansion, carried by the sailors and followed by a numerous train of them and hundreds of others.

Wrote a letter to Miss Maulsby. Alice Maulsby passed Meeting with Josiah Albertson on Thursday last.

February 7: Thursday.

Attended lectures. My pulse, since the attack of bilious fever last fall, is commonly as low as 45 pulsations in a minute and is very readily, on slightest exercise, thrown into irregular action and even palpitations.

February 8: Friday.

Attended lectures. Mrs. Eliza. Paxson was married last evening to Mr. Jacob Kenderdine by the Reverend Mr. Patterson.

February 9: Saturday.

Attended the quiz, lectures, &c. In the evening, Mr. Henry Lippincot[t] proposed to the Medical Society (at my request) to admit me as a member. The proposition was seconded by Mr. Alexander of Virginia and it was entered on the minutes. I went from there, about 7 o'clock, to an Indian dance where there were about a dozen students, and we then went to a dance house. I drank no liquor at all, but made up my mind never to go to a dance house again.

February 10: Sunday.

Much headache. Took an emetic about 11 o'clock. Very sick. Walked out towards evening.

February 11: Monday.

Attended lectures. Consulted Dr. Horner respecting the alteration in my pulse. He said it was a slight disease of the heart, after applying the stethoscope.

February 12: Tuesday.

Attended lectures. Dr. Horner came up to stethoscope me this afternoon. My left lung, he said, was perfectly sound. Said nothing of the right. Said my heart was somewhat affected and that I ought to diet for 1 or 2 years. Dr. [Richard D.] Corson's son, Thomas Johnson Corson, was born this day. Dewitt Clinton<sup>xviii</sup> of the State of New York died suddenly this night.

February 16: Saturday.

Attended lectures. I was this night admitted as a junior member of the Philad. Medical Society. [Present officers are]: Philip S. Physick,<sup>xix</sup> Pres.; Joseph Parrish, Vice Pres.; Samuel Jackson, Vice Pres.; John R. W. Dunbar, Rec. Sec.

February 17: Sunday.

Went to Presbyterian Meeting in the forenoon, to hear Mr. Finny in the afternoon. Wrote to the Doctor.

February 23: Saturday.

Very severe cold. Attended lectures. Rodgers joined the Medical Society.

February 27: Wednesday.

Doctor James delivered his valedictory yesterday.

February 28: Thursday.

Doctor Hare delivered his valedictory this day.

February 29: Friday.

Attended lectures. Doctors Chapman and Gibson delivered their valedictorys [sic] this afternoon.

March 1: Saturday.

Doctors Coxe and Physick delivered their valedictorys [sic] this day. I studied till 2 o'clock nearly this night.

March 2: Sunday.

I did not go to Meeting at all. It is so very rainy. Mr. Rodgers got his notice yesterday to be ready to be examined on Monday at one o'clock. He bears it very well.

March 3: Monday.

Morning. Got up at sunrise. We read till eleven o'clock, then we went down to see them graduate as they commence this morning at 11 o'clock. Mr. Harrison from Virginia came first and my room mate, Mr. Rodgers, came on the sixth and came through with honors.

March 4: Tuesday.

I studied pretty well this day. Went down to see them graduate, &c. In the evening I got my notice to appear tomorrow evening at seven o'clock to be examined. There was one man [who] had to withdraw on Monday evening after two of the professors had examined him.

March 5: Wednesday.

This day there was one rejected, Mr. Spencer from Virginia. At seven o'clock this evening I appeared before the professors of the University of Pennsylvania to stand an examination for the degree of Doctor of Medicine and in 30 minutes I passed, as Doctor Horner expressed himself at the time, "with the greatest possible honour." In the whole examination I received not a single stump. I was examined first by Doctor James upon the seat of conception, extrauterine pregnancy and retroversion of the uterus; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Doctor Gibson upon hernia generally; 3<sup>rd</sup> by Doctor Coxe on turpentine, camphor, elaterium,<sup>xx</sup> morphia, cremous tarter, borax, sulphur, zinc, &c., &c., &c.; 4<sup>th</sup> by Doctor Hare on Chlorine and its compounds; 5<sup>th</sup> by Doctor Horner for Dr. Physick upon the circulation of the blood, the stomach, liver, spleen, omenta, pericardium, pleura, ventricles and membranes of the brain, &c.; 6<sup>th</sup> by Dr. Jackson for Dr. Chapman upon dropsy in general, hydrothorax in particular, and something about croup. They all expressed their decided approbation and manifest admiration of the manner in which I acquitted myself. My Thesis was upon Tetanus. The man who was examined at the same time was Joshua Rhoades. He wrote on the circulation of the blood.

The graduating fee is 40 dollars which I paid Mr. Dick (the door keeper) before I went upstairs, and when I came out I paid him five dollars, a fee which the graduates are in the habit of paying him. After I came back to Woglom's, they prepared some whiskey punch for Rodgers and me to drink, which I for a time refused knowing it would make my head ache, but I at length complied so far as to take one glass full, then went to bed.

March 6: Thursday.

Awoke with a violent headache, though in fact I slept but little all night, being kept awake by the thought of the task which I had accomplished as well as by the headache. My head ached a good deal nearly all day but still I went in the University to see them graduate which six of them did.

Spent this evening at Kenderdine's.

March 7: Friday

There were two rejected this day. I went to Joseph D. Corson this afternoon. George came down this evening in the gig for me.

March 8: Saturday.

I bought a silver lancet for 5 dollars. George bought Wm. Diel's Arabian mare for 70 dollars and we then started out of the city at one o'clock. Reached home in the evening. Borrowed of George 14 dollars.

March 9: Sunday.

Went to Plymouth Meeting in the forenoon, to Alan's in the afternoon.

March 12: Wednesday.

Alice Maulsby was married to Josiah Albertson in Meeting held at the house of Doctor James, after the fashion of the Orthodox. Vanhorn graduated this day.

March 13: Thursday.

Have a violent headache. Started to New Hope, took dinner at Doylestown, arrived at New Hope in the evening. Very tired and much headache.

March 14: Friday.

Got up at 3 o'clock this morning and rode down the river two miles to assist Mrs. Pidcock in parturition. Her pains were very trifling and after seeing that the os uteri was dilated, I administered of the ergot (1 fluid dram) and she was then delivered in about 25 minutes of a son which they named after myself.

March 16: Sunday.

Headache. Went to Lambertsville Meeting in the forenoon, to Maris in the afternoon, but was taken from there to deliver Mrs. Corryell in N. Jersey, which I did of a daughter.

March 17: Monday.

Went to Uncle Joshua.

March 18: Tuesday.

Went back to New Hope.

March 19: Wednesday.

Rode some with Doctor and took Miss Lucilla Fell to a party at Mr. Lee's this evening.

March 20: Thursday.

The party did not break up till 3 o'clock this morning. I then took Miss Fell home and staid there till morning when I came to New Hope and after dinner started for home. I came as far as Uncle Richard's when I put up for the night.

March 21: Friday.

Morning. Started for home where I arrived at 2 P.M. Went to Maulsby's in the evening. Received a written invitation to wait on Miss Martha Maulsby at the wedding of Miss Jane Jones & Mr. Jont. Maulsby on the 8<sup>th</sup> of April, 1828.

March 22: Saturday.

Staid at home till noon, then went to Charles Adamson's, Charlestown.

March 23: Sunday.

Joseph D. Corson, William and myself came over to Charles Corson's. From there, home about 2 o'clock and from there Joseph D. Corson and I went to Philad.

March 24: Monday.

Morning. Came to Mrs. Woglom's and spent the day walking with Mr. Rodgers. The examination closed this day.

March 25: Tuesday.

Went to Jacob Hagy's with Mrs. Ann Corson.

March 27: Thursday.

This day the commencement for conferring medical degrees took place at the Musical Fund Hall at eleven o'clock, at which time and place one hundred and thirty three men, of whom I was one, had the degree of Medicina Doctora conferred upon them. We then went back to the University and received our Diplomas. Wm. and I then went over to Joseph D. Corson and took dinner. Miss Ann Price also dined with us. In the afternoon Wm. and myself went to the Navy Yard and saw the largest ship ever built. We walked through it. It is to carry 120 guns and about 1500 men. In the evening I attended a party at Doctor James to which all the graduates were invited.

March 28: Friday.

Morning. At six o'clock I went with Robert Rodgers, M.D. to the stage office and saw him depart for Shippensburg. Bought Cooper's Surgery by Tyrrell,<sup>xxi</sup> \$1.12 ½; Gregory's practice,<sup>xxii</sup> \$3.75; Phillips<sup>xxiii</sup> on indigestion, 62 ½ cents; Hamilton on

mercury, 87 ½ cents; Duchamp on retention of urine, 75; Mrs. Bs. Chemistry, 62 ½ cents; Lannec<sup>xxiv</sup> on the chest; also got home about 2 o'clock P.M.

March 29: Saturday.

Doctor Leedom came and offered to take me into partnership with him upon equal terms, except, he having all the money for the midwifery cases in which he officiated for one year, then all to be equal.

March 30: Sunday.

Went to Meeting in the forenoon and to Norristown with Thomas Livezey in the afternoon.

April 1: Tuesday.

Attended the funeral of Mrs. Childs, consort of Peter Childs. Went to Norristown Bank in the afternoon.

April 2: Wednesday.

Doctor Leedom drew up an article of agreement between us, but we did not sign it. In the afternoon I commenced vaccinating for him. I vaccinated 2 children for Jont. William and one for Alan Corson.

April 3: Thursday.

Uncle Rex's family moved to the City of Philadelphia, St. John Street, above Brown. I borrowed fifty dollars of Thomas Read and gave him a note for it payable in one year. I then put a horse to the gig and took Hannah Rex to the city, and then bought my first bill of medicine [of Joshua Jenkins, No. 107 Market Street] amounting to \$26.90. Bought a case of pocket instruments price \$14; stuff for grey pants \$5. Got home about 10 o'clock after vomiting 2 or 3 times.

April 5: Saturday.

Rode for the first time with Doctor Leedom to see the patients. Finished towards night.

April 6: Sunday.

Quite cool. Vanhorn came here this day. Wm. and he rode out in the afternoon. Vanhorn went to Norristown in the evening. I got a chill about noon which lasted till near sunset.

April 7: Monday.

Morning. Quite delirious last night, the fever being very high and great pain in the head. The pain still continues. Commenced taking quinine.

April 8: Tuesday.

Got up very early and prepared to take Martha Maulsby to Jonathan's wedding. We all (about 20 couples) walked from Evan Jones to Gwyned[d] Meeting where Jont. Maulsby was married to Miss Jane Jones. Came back and staid all night.

April 9: Wednesday.

Morning. Came home. Took dinner at Maulsby's. Then vaccinated some children in the afternoon.

April 10: Thursday.

Took a little ride in the afternoon. William Jones and Rachel Davis were married at Radnor this day.

April 11: Friday.

Read in the forenoon. Rode out vaccinating in the afternoon. Sent a letter to Doctor Rodgers.

April 16: Wednesday.

Read. Practiced. Went to court, &c.

April 28: Monday.

Practiced. Ellen Corson, daughter of Charles Corson & Sarah his wife, died this morning, aged months.

April 29: Tuesday.

The child was buried at Plymouth. I was out practicing and got a shake of the ague this day and was very poorly for several hours.

April 30: Wednesday.

Something like the ague in the afternoon.

May 3: Saturday.

Edwin and I went to town.

May 6: Tuesday.

Doctor and Edwin started to Mount Carbon, Mauch Chunk, &c., and I went there to stay till they come back. Practiced. Enoch Marple's child is quite poorly and I have much anxiety for fear it will die while Doctor is away.

May 7: Wednesday.

Jonathan Maulsby brought his wife to the new house at the corner this day. We had a fine dinner and quite a party in the evening.

May 8: Thursday.

The child is rather worse. Practiced a great deal.

May 9: Friday.

Practiced much. Child stationary.

May 10: Saturday.

Child better. Practiced a good deal.

May 12: Monday.

Wagon run over Lewis Yetter. Practiced a good deal. Child quite well.

May 13: Tuesday.

Doctor and Edwin came home. I feel much relieved of the burden which I have since they started. Went to Marble Hall Battalion.

May 14: Wednesday.

Practiced.

May 15: Thursday.

Went to Centre Square Battalion.

May 18: Sunday.

Practiced some. Went to Meeting and wrote poetry in the afternoon.

May 19: Monday.

Practiced in the morning. In the afternoon got a shake of the ague followed by a very high fever. Took 10 grs. of cal. at six o'clock in the evening then a dose of salts at 12 at night; they operated about two; commenced taking quinine at sunrise next morning.

May 20: Tuesday.

Took 10 grs. (quinine) before 11 o'clock today. Had a kind of indistinct chill. Felt very miserable. In the evening began taking quinine again and took 20 grs. before 10 o'clock on Wednesday morning, therefore missed the ague this day. Very rainy. Disagreeable weather.

May 26: Monday.

Practiced. Mr. Brades has typhus fever.

May 29: Thursday.

Wm. and I went to Buckingham Meeting Quarterly. Took dinner at Byer's. Went to Rice's in the afternoon. Much company there. Staid till 3 o'clock Friday morning, when we went to New Hope. Got to bed at 4 o'clock and slept till 9 o'clock. Spent the day in [New] Hope and went to Uncle Joshua's in the evening to stay all night.

May 31: Saturday.

Went back to N[ew] Hope in order that William might propose to the Doctor his idea of coming to study with him. They rode out together and I went to Maris'. Took dinner at Doctor's and then started for home. Stopped at Aunt Sally Bennett's. Wm. bled Bill Bennett just to see if he could bleed. It rained profusely. We got home eleven o'clock at night.

June 1: Sunday.

Went to Doctor's in the morning. Staid at home in the afternoon.



June 2: Monday.

Practiced. Began studying the French again, having neglected it for the last six months.

June 5: Thursday.

Practiced and prepared for taking a journey to Albany, N.Y., &c.

June 6: Friday.

I got Jake Hallman to take me to the Billet. There I took [the] stage and went to N[ew] Hope.

June 7: Saturday.

Doctor Corson and I went to Miles Bennett's and got of him 36 shad, of Tom Pidcock 23, and had them put up in a barrel for my father.

June 8: Sunday.

Dr. went to town. I went to Meeting and visited patients.

June 9: Monday.

Visited a good many patients & had a chill in the afternoon.

June 10: Tuesday.

Visited patients & took quinine.

June 11: Wednesday.

Doctor came home in the evening. He had two chills while he was in town.

June 12: Thursday.

Visited patients. Attended funeral of George Trego, a young man, friend of mine, by trade a painter. Hard rain.

June 13: Friday.

Visited patients. Wrote a letter to William.

June 14: Saturday.

Morning. Started in the stage from Lambertsville for N[ew] Brunswick, arrived at 12 o'clock – fare \$1.50, dinner 25. Then went on board the steam boat Swan and arrived at N[ew] York at 5 o'clock – fare 50 cts. Admittance to Castle Garden – 12.

June 15: Sunday.

Morning. Went on board the steam boat Independence at 7 o'clock and arrived at Albany at ½ past six P.M. – fare \$3 and food (2 meals, victuals, lemonade) 12. Put up at Fobes Hotel.

June 16: Monday.

Morning. Bed & breakfast 75 cts., lemonade 12. At ½ past 9 A.M. started in the

stage to Schenectady – fare 62 ½ cts. Had no dinner. Spent the afternoon with Stephen Wynkoop at Union College. Took tea with him. Staid all night at Givens Hotel – cost 25 cts.

June 17: Tuesday.

Morning. At 5 o'clock took stage for Albany – fare 62 cts. (15 miles). Got to Albany ½ past 8 A.M. Took breakfast at Fobes – price 50 cts. At 10 o'clock went on board the steam boat Chief Justice Marshall – fare \$2.00 and food (two meals). Got to New York at 2 o'clock on Wednesday morning. Staid on board till 4 o'clock, then went in company with Mr. Turner, a young gentleman from England, to the Tontine Coffee House. Slept till 8 o'clock. Got up and got breakfast and then visited every place of amusement and place of information in the city, also the theatre in the evening – 25 cts. Staid all night at this Coffee House.

June 19: Thursday.

Morning. Started for Philad. and came by way of Bordentown – fare \$3.00. Staid all night at Woglom's. My friend staid at Wades.

June 20: Friday.

Mr. Turner and myself visited all the fashionable places in the city.

June 21: Saturday.

Went to Joseph D. Corson (yesterday I borrowed \$5 of Mary Conrad), then came to the city. Bought some medicine and came out with Barclay Thomas.

June 22: Sunday.

Staid at home all day not being well.

June 27: Friday.

Moved my goods in the evening to Jonathan Maulsby's with whom I am going to board. Visited some patients.

June 28: Saturday.

Thermometer at 97 degrees in the shade. I commenced boarding with Jonathan Maulsby. Visited some patients.

June 29: Sunday.

Very warm. I went to Horsham with merchant Maulsby to hear Elias Hicks preach. Took dinner at Lewis Jones and then heard E. Hicks preach again at Dublin in the afternoon. I think there was the most severe thunder storm that I ever experienced while we were in [the] Meeting. Got home at ½ past 9 o'clock at night.

June 30: Monday.

Not very well. A good deal of griping from drinking the lime-stone water.

July 1: Tuesday.

Took a dose of cal. gr. x in the morning. Visited patients. Took a dose of salts at 10 o'clock. Heard Elias Hicks preach about an hour this morning at Plymouth Meeting.

July 2: Wednesday.

Read nearly all day, not having more than one patient. Went to Joseph D. Corson in the evening, then to the city and staid all night at Stephens.

July 3: Thursday.

Morning. Came home. J. D. Corson came with me. Read, &c.

July 5: Saturday.

Read. Visited patients, &c. Was up till midnight from 8 o'clock in the evening with a girl who had fits. She got pretty well.

July 6: Sunday.

Visited some patients. Went to Norristown. We had company here, Evan Lester & sister, Cynthia & David Jones. Got to bed at 10 o'clock. Quite tired and mortified at the frivolous manner in which I spent the day. Was introduced to the Miss Wills this day.

July 8: Tuesday.

Practiced a good deal. We had a very powerful rain. I read Geography, French, &c. Sparked Miss Susan Cummings for one hour and a half last night.

July 9: Wednesday.

Visited some patients. Paid Samuel Thomas Senior six dollars, the amount of interest due him from Joseph Corson Junior for \$100 from the 19<sup>th</sup> of March, 1827, till the 19<sup>th</sup> of March, 1828. Read some.

July 11: Friday.

Practiced, &c. Went to Norristown and paid Warren Stelle the 3 dollars which I owed him for my hat. Went home in the evening with Mary Wills from Lievzey's [Livezey's]. Got to bed at midnight.

July 12: Saturday.

Practiced a good deal. Went into bathe and cut my heel with a stone. Miss Ellen Foulke came here.

July 13: Sunday.

Very rainy forenoon, but I had to go out to practice. Sparked Ellen Foulke this evening pretty fast.

July 14: Monday.

Practiced a good deal. Edwin Leedom commenced building a chemical shop.

Thomas Pritner called to see me and borrowed my notes on Chapman from me. William Sterigere also called to see me.

July 19: Saturday.

Ellen Foulke went home yesterday.

July 20: Sunday.

Practiced. Got caught in the rain. Quite unwell all day. Spent an hour or two at Wills in the evening.

July 21: Monday.

Practiced in the forenoon. Had the ague in the afternoon.

July 22: Tuesday.

Practiced a good deal. Very weak, taking quinine. Had a slight touch of the ague.

July 24: Thursday.

I have a good deal of irritation of the bowels, tenesmus, &c. Visited patients. While I was riding I was seized with colic in the left side of the abdomen. I took a teaspoonful of the tinct. of assafoetida<sup>xxv</sup> and was relieved immediately. [Was] very miserable all the afternoon.

July 26: Saturday.

There is a great celebration of the Adams party at Valley Forge. There were about 4,000 people there and about ½ that number took dinner. There was a Jackson meeting at Hickorytown of about 400. Called to a case of fractured skull, John Mullin. I bled him 3 times this day.

July 27: Sunday.

Practiced nearly all day. Bled Mullin and shaved his head this evening.

July 29: Tuesday.

Mullin [is] better. [Will] give him one cracker a day.

August 1: Friday.

William Young died this day of an attack of typhus fever of only 3 days; [is] Doctor's patient.

August 2: Saturday.

John Coulston, old man, died of an attack of bilious fever of one weeks standing.

August 3: Sunday.

Visited patients nearly all day. I went in the afternoon to see Mrs. Young, mother of the late William Young. She flew to me [as] soon as I entered the house and

wept exceedingly, at the same time in the most pathetic language, lamenting the death of her son. After talking an hour or two with her I came home at 9 o'clock.

August 5: Tuesday.

Got a new suit cut off (blue) and took it to James Coates to make. Rode a great deal this day.

August 7: Thursday.

Several children quite poorly. Rode less this day than usual.

August 12: Tuesday.

Rode all day. Attended a party at Peter Dager in the evening. I went home with Miss Mary Wills. Staid there till 12 o'clock, then came home.

August 15: Friday.

There is a great deal of sickness. Rode a great deal.

August 16: Saturday.

Rode much. Got my new suit from James Coates. Attended a small party [this] evening at Mr. Wills. Staid till 12 o'clock at night.

August 17: Sunday.

Very unwell in the afternoon with something like the dysentery; it made me very weak in a few hours.

August 18: Monday.

Vomited up my breakfast. Very weak, but began to ride. Took much opia and brandy through the day. Very warm, but I got better.

August 28: Thursday.

Rachel Pugh died this morning about one o'clock.

August 29: Friday.

Rode a great deal. [It is] very hot and dry. I got the ague at noon. Had to ride while the fever was on me, which caused [a] violent headache. Took cal. and jal.

August 30: Saturday.

Spent a wretched night with the headache & fever. Practiced all this day. Took as I rode 15 grs. quinine in sol.

September 1: Monday.

I, this morning, received a note from Dr. Leedom informing me that our partnership was at an end and that he intends practicing on his own account and wishes me to do the same which I intend doing. I have about a dozen families sick at present. Practiced all day.

September 2: Tuesday.

It commenced raining last evening and rained all night and all this day. This is the first rain that has fallen for many [days] and vegetation was nearly destroyed. Practiced all day.

September 3: Wednesday.

Very rainy day. Practiced some. Wrote to Vanhorn.

September 6: Saturday.

Got a letter from Dr. Corson yesterday who wants me to come and live with him.

September 9: Tuesday.

Practiced. Rainy. Country not so sickly as before the rain.

September 15: Monday.

William Lawrence, Hitner's son-in-law, died this morning; Dr. Martin's patient.

September 19: Friday.

Bought a Sorrel horse of William Pearson, 4 years old, for 95 dollars, to pay 5 dollars more if John Pearson, the owner of the horse, is not satisfied.

September 27: Saturday.

Rode very hard. [Have] about 50 patients.

October 1: Wednesday.

Practiced medicine all day and most of the night. In fact, I am almost exhausted. I have at this time about fifty patients and 40 of them are confined to their beds with the fever.

October 13: Monday.

[The last twelve days were] all spent in constant attention to the sick, not having a moment to spare.

October 14: Tuesday.

Day of general election for county officers. I took the time sufficient to go and vote. Robert Helling Senr. Died this day.

October 25: Saturday.

[The last eleven days were] spent in constant attention on the sick, though disease has abated at least one half.

October 26: Sunday.

Practiced till noon, then hired Lewis Roberts' sulky and went to New Hope, arrived there about sunset. Spent the evening at Mr. Maris' with his daughters and Dr. Rodgers.

October 27: Monday.

Went with Dr. Rodgers in the forenoon to visit patients. Started for home at 2 o'clock, arrived 8 o'clock in the evening. Visited Samuel Freas' wife afterwards before I went to bed. Rainy night.

October 31: Friday.

Visited patients. Went to the Presidential election and voted for John Quincy Adams in opposition to General Andrew Jackson.

November 1: Saturday.

Rainy day. Practiced medicine in the forenoon, read in the afternoon and till midnight nearly. Edwin C. Leedom has just fixed up an apothecary shop in this place.

November 6: Thursday.

Went to the city to officiate as second groom's man at Evan Jones' marriage to Mary Lukens at Green Street Meeting, [my] partner, Miss Ellen Foulke, No. 9 North Eleventh St.

November 7: Friday.

Heard Dr. Gibson's lecture on surgery at the University. Bought some catheters, &c. and left the city at 11 o'clock, arrived at home 3 P.M. Visited some patients afterwards.

November 9: Sunday.

Visited about ½ doz. families, then went in the evening to Michael Wills and sparked Mary till 12 o'clock.

December 7: Sunday.

Joseph Yerkes was married to Hannah Davis last Thursday. I sparked Susan Yerkes this night till 12 o'clock.

December 9: Tuesday.

Attended the funeral of Miss Mary Ann Potts, daughter of George Potts [of] Norristown; buried at Plymouth.

### **COST OF STUDYING MEDICINE**

The whole cost of studying medicine from the time I commenced on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May, 1826, till I graduated on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March, 1828:

\$343 the first summer and winter (books, &c. included).

\$455 the last (summer and winter)

\$798 Total.

### **CHILDREN WHICH I ASSISTED TO DELIVER WHILE A STUDENT (FOR DOCTOR CORSON)**

Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> of May, 1827: Black Female;

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> of October, 1827: White Male.

**CHILDREN WHICH I DELIVERED AFTER I  
GRADUATED (FOR DOCTOR CORSON)**

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> of March, 1828: White Male;  
Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> of March, 1828: White Female.

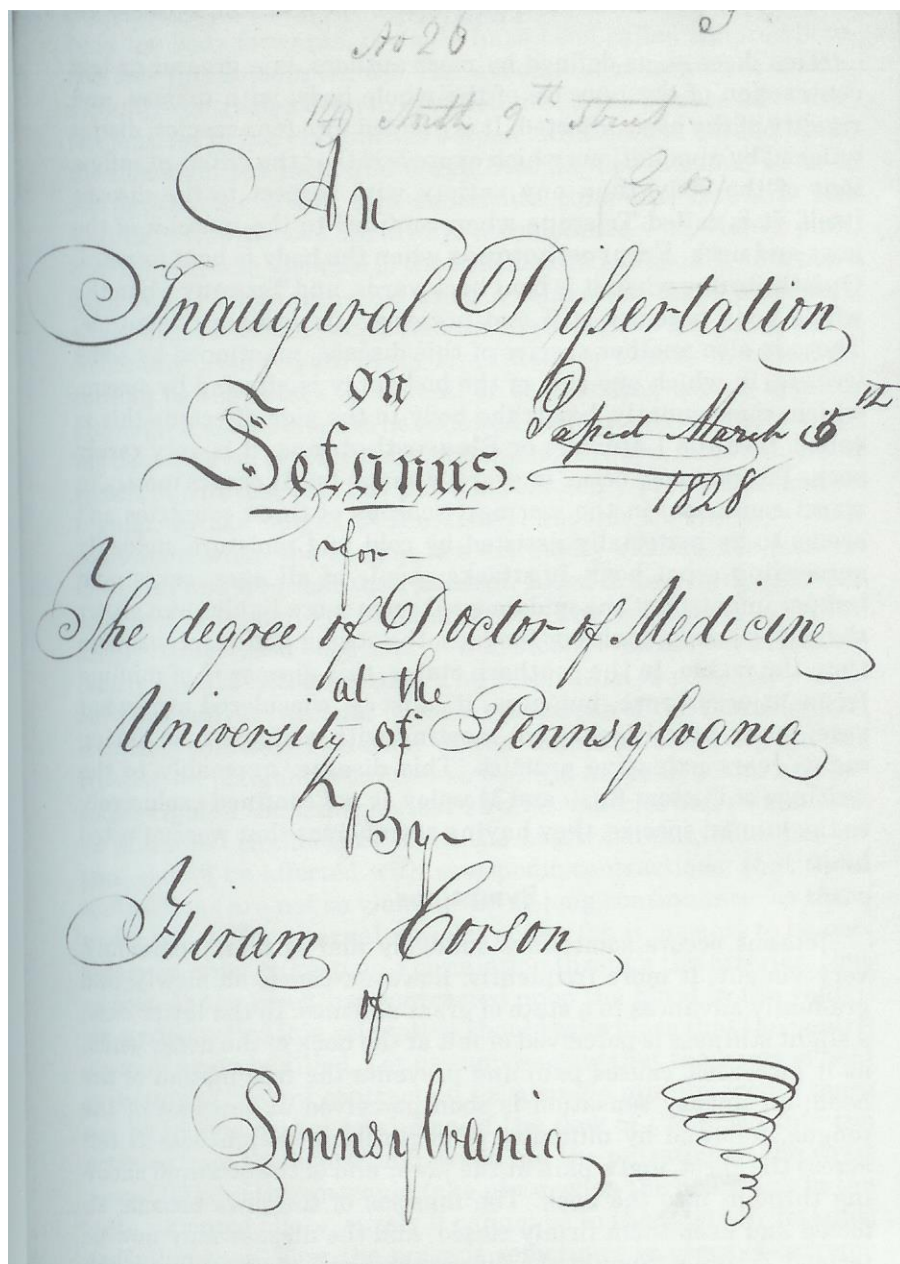
**NUMBERS THAT I BLED FROM APRIL 1827 TILL  
NOVEMBER 1827**

Men: 15;  
Females: 15; Bled at the ankle: 2.

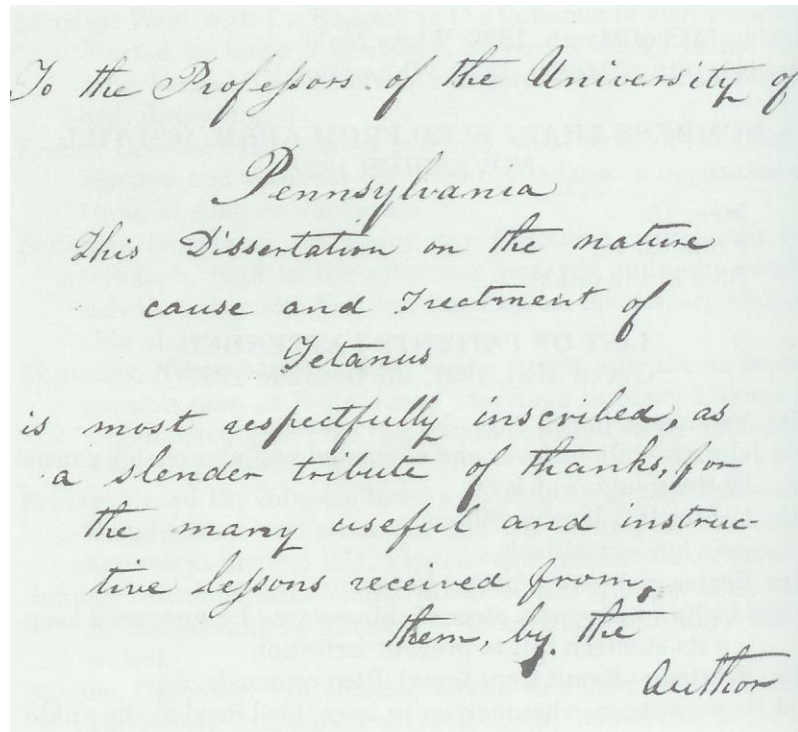
**LIST OF PATIENTS I ATTENDED  
(1<sup>st</sup> of May, 1827, till October, 1827)**

Mrs. Vannoman [for] 2 days- bilious- cured;  
Old Johnson-bilious fever and elongated uvula, probably caused by the uvula-cut it off;  
Mrs. Collins [in] Jersey- bilious;  
Johnson's boy- tonsillaris;  
Mrs. Beale's girl- intermittent [fever];  
A child who swallowed a piece of china ware- I commenced keeping its stomach full to prevent irritation;  
Mrs. Freeman- Remit[tent fever]- bled copiously, &c;  
Old Negro woman- rheumatism in knee, bled [her] at the ankle;  
Black girl- continued bilious;  
White girl [for] 1 day- violent pain in ear. Bled, blistered, purged. [Got] well;  
Delivered Mrs. Edwards [28<sup>th</sup> of May]- female child;  
One man- broken tibia;  
One broken ulna;  
One child [who] broke os femoris;  
Hundred others (with Dr. Richard Corson);  
One suffocat[ing] in a well- bled him and [he] got well;  
One dislocated clavicle at the humeral extremity- put on dressing for fractured clavicle.





**Title page of Dr. Hiram Corson's doctoral thesis on Tetanus.  
Courtesy, Van Pelt Library, University of Pennsylvania.**



To the Professors of the University of  
Pennsylvania  
This Dissertation on the nature  
cause and Treatment of  
Tetanus  
is most respectfully inscribed, as  
a slender tribute of thanks, for  
the many useful and instruc-  
tive lessons received from  
them, by the  
Author

**Dr. Hiram Corson's Preface to his doctoral thesis on Tetanus.  
Courtesy, Van Pelt Library, University of Pennsylvania.**

## **TETANUS**

This disease, as defined by most authors, is a greater or less contraction of the muscles of the whole body, with tension, and rigidity of the parts affected. It is divided into four species, distinguished by appellations which express rather the different inflexions of the body, than any variety with respect to the disease itself. It is called **Trismus** when confined to the muscles of the jaws and neck, **Emprosthotonos** when the body is bent forward, **Opisthotonos** when it is bent backwards, and **Tetanus** when the whole body becomes stiff and preserves its ordinary rectitude. There is also another species of this disease, mentioned by some writers, in which one side of the body only is affected by spasm, which, consequently, bends the body to the side affected - this is called **Tetanus Lateralis** or **Pleurosthotonos**, it is very rarely seen. Tetanus may occur in every climate, but it occurs mostly in warm countries, in the warmest seasons of those countries and seems to be materially assisted by cold and moisture suddenly succeeding great heat. It attacks people of all ages, sexes, and temperaments, but the middle aged seem more liable than either the old or young, males or females, the strong and vigorous more than the feeble. In the southern states, this disease is of middling frequent occurrence, but here, it must be considered somewhat rare; many practitioners not meeting with a single case during many years extensive practice. This disease, agreeably to the writings of Doctors Rush and Moseley, is not confined exclusively to the human species, they having seen horses that were affected by it.

## SYMPTOMS

Tetanus occurs sometimes suddenly and is then, commonly, very violent. It more frequently, however, comes on slowly, and gradually advances to a state of great violence. In the latter case, a slight stiffness is perceived or felt at the back of the neck, which as it increases, causes pain and prevents the free motion of the head; an uneasy sensation is soon perceived at the root of the tongue, followed by difficulty of deglutition; a tightness is felt across the chest, and a pain at the lower end of the sternum shooting through into the back. The muscles of the jaws become affected and keep them firmly closed, and the disease may now be termed Trismus. Should the disease proceed, the muscles of the back become affected, so as to draw the neck and trunk of the body backwards, constituting Opisthotonos. If on the contrary, the muscles on the front of the body had been affected, so as to bend the body forwards, it would have been called Emprosthotonos, but this seldom occurs. The abdominal muscles are mostly violently contracted even in opisthotonos. If the disease advances, the muscles of the extremities become affected and extend them, the flexors of the head and trunk become now affected, so as to strengthen the trunk and constitute complete Tetanus. The spasms in this disease are always accompanied with violent pain, but, the extreme violence of the spasm does not usually last more than two or three minutes, when a relaxation takes place in a slight degree with a proportionate abatement of the pain, but it commonly occurs again every ten, fifteen or twenty minutes, according as the attack is violent, or the exciting causes applied, although it seems often to be renewed without any evidence exciting cause.

Fever is sometimes, though not always, an attendant of spasm in this disease. The pulse is commonly precipitate and irregular, in the height of the spasm, though Cullen says that, sometimes when the spasms are extremely violent, the pulse is more full and frequent than natural. Blood drawn in this disease seldom shows signs of inflammation.

The excretions are commonly suppressed, especially the stools, violent constipation nearly always being present. The respiration is commonly difficult, probably on account of the contractions of the thoracic muscles and confined situation of the diaphragm. Larrey in his treatise on traumatic tetanus says, "the heart is bound and becomes rigid in the same manner as other muscles and thus causes an enfeebled circulation." That the heart, being a muscular organ, should be affected with spasmodic contractions, that those contractions are not so violent, nor so long continuance, as those under which the external muscles suffer, for, it appears to be necessary in order to keep up a circulation through the arteries, that as soon as the heart has contracted upon the blood in the ventricle, and expelled it, a relaxation should take place that the ventricle may again be filled. Let us suppose now that the heart is held in a state of violent contraction for a single minute, would there not be in this case a total stop of the flow of the blood into the arteries from the heart? And would not the pulsation at the wrist cease? If those things would take place when the heart was in the state supposed above, surely it cannot be in that state in Tetanus, as Cullen says: That the pulse is sometimes in cases of extreme violence more full than natural, and other writers agree, in saying, that it is continued with but little variation in point of number from what it is in health. To proceed with the symptoms, there is commonly in the commencement nausea, and sickness of stomach, the heat of the body is sometimes increased, at others natural, a cold

sweat sometimes breaks out on the face, and limbs, the urine, though sometimes voided with difficulty, and deficient in quantity, is not always so. The deglutition is sometimes entirely obstructed, and the patient suffers the most intolerable anguish. Every organ of voluntary motions seems now to be affected, the eye is immovably fixed in its socket, the countenance of the patient is hideous and distorted, and while in this state the strength fails, the pulse becomes irregular, and one universal convulsion puts an end to the life of the patient, who often is in so full possession of his mental faculties, as to be perfectly sensible of the fate which awaits him, the brain in this disease, becoming so disordered as to destroy judgment, only in the very last moments of life. In traumatic tetanus the symptoms of the early stage are somewhat different. The wound, if suppuration has commenced, ceases to discharge pus, the flesh becomes dry, bloated, first of a red, then of a mottled colour; the whole limb becomes painful, the wound inflames, convulsions with cramps ensue, the muscles of the jaws and throat become suddenly or gradually affected; and the disease goes on as usual. It sometimes comes on after the diseased part has healed. Tetanus from punctured or lacerated wounds is the most common kind.

## CAUSES

Cold has long been considered as a cause of tetanus, and is said to act more powerfully when combined with moisture. As cold is a negative agent it acts in an indirect manner; when long continued it produces its effects probably by inducing debility which favours the action of exciting causes. When applied suddenly, and with some force, it probably acts as an exciting cause, by so diminishing the excitement, as to induce convulsive action. Heat has long been considered as having a material influence in producing tetanus, and this was ascribed by Doctor Rush to its debilitating effects. That heat does produce debility almost any one's experience may inform him. It is also caused by substances which irritate the *Primæ viæ*, as the acrid matter of dysentery of worms, ardent spirits, miasmata, poisons, constipation, severe labour, &c., and is, when it arises from those causes, called idiopathic tetanus; but, when it arises from a scratch, puncture, lesion of a nerve, gun shot or other injury, it is called symptomatic or traumatic tetanus. This distinction is well enough, as will appear when we come to the treatment of the disease, which is somewhat different in the two cases, but they are probably both symptomatic of irritation in different parts of the bodies, but which in both cases becomes transmitted to the same place which then becomes the seat of disease.

## PATHOLOGY

I will dwell but a short time on this part of the disease, conscious that I cannot advance any thing new or interesting respecting it, but will merely make some remarks which its analogy with other diseases has suggested to me. Many of the symptoms, of Hysteria, Epilepsy, and other convulsive diseases, from their bearing a close analogy to the symptoms in tetanus, induced me, in the early part of my medical studies, to look upon them as being diseases of a milder character than Tetanus, but arising probably from the same part being affected in all cases, though in different degrees according to the disease produced. The causes, of those diseases also in many cases being the same, gave additional support to my opinions; but it was not, till I found that Doctor Chapman in his *Therapeutics* had promulgated the same opinion and instituted a plan of treatment accordingly, that I was incited more closely to examine into the causes, which we have

enumerated as producing tetanus, we may find recorded by many writers as producing those diseases of which it may be considered an aggravated state. Thus epilepsy has been caused by acrid matters, or indigestible food in the stomach, by worms, constipation, &c. The same causes have also been considered as giving rise to Hysteria. Colica Pictonum and Chorea Sancti viti are also caused by irritants in the alimentary canal; “a disease also, occasionally, arises from something causing irritation in the primæ viæ, which so nearly resembles that arising from the bites of rabid animals, as to be with difficulty distinguished from it.” Those facts seem to prove very clearly, that there is a very close and intimate connexion, between convulsive or spasmodic affections, and primary irritation of the stomach, and bowels. But while those facts strengthen the opinion that irritation of those parts does produce tetanus, it does not prove it to be the immediate seat of the disease. I am, from circumstances which I shall proceed to notice, inclined to believe that the causes of all spasmodic diseases produce their effects through the medium, of the sensorium commune, or the origin of the nerves of the brain and spinal marrow. This opinion is strongly supported by the experiments and observations of Doctor Phillips in his “inquiry on the relation between the nervous and sanguiferous systems.” He says that “neither chemical, nor mechanical stimuli, applied to the nervous system, excites the muscles of voluntary motion, unless they are applied near the origin of the nerves of the brain and spinal marrow.” The seat of tetanus may, therefore, be located in the central portion of the nervous system, or as it may be called, central organ perception and volition, and which is inferred, from the experiments of some anatomists, to be the medulla oblongata, which, according to the experiment of Charles Bell, is composed of those portions of matter which seem in a manner distinct from each other, each one governing a distinct set of organs. “Irritation of the upper portion of the medulla oblongata, occasions spasm & convulsions of the voluntary muscles, and irritation of the lower portion of it, and the upper part of the spinal marrow produce spasm, &c., of the muscles of respiration, of the voice, and face as expressing the passion.” It appears therefore, from the above, that in order to the production of convulsive, or spasmodic action of the muscles, that this part of the nervous system must be irritated, and this may be either primarily, or secondarily. In case of matter irritating the stomach, the irritation may be transmitted to the medulla, through the medium of the sympathetic and par vagum, the latter of which is most affected, which in Hydrophobia the lower portion is most affected, as it is the respiratory muscles which are under influence in the latter case, and the voluntary ones in the former. Many of the symptoms which occur in tetanus, as the expression of the face, the early affection of the throat, the small muscles of the glottis also, sometimes becoming affected by spasm, so as to cause immediate death by closing the glottis and producing suffocation, and knowing, that, in all mortal cases of disease, death takes place from an influence extending over the respiratory system, induce us to believe that the respiratory nerves are considerably affected in this disease. Without speaking of the theories which have been advanced by different writers on the pathology of this disease, I will here conclude mine, conscious that if there is any thing of importance in what I have written, the merit is due to those whose labours have thrown light on the subject. My own opinions are those of one, who is far from possessing an accurate knowledge of all that is necessary to enable him, to lay down the true pathology of Tetanus. In forming a prognosis, we are to be influenced by several circumstances, such as the cause and violence of the attack, the length of time it

has existed, and the present situation of the patient. Tetanus from wounds is more fatal than the idiopathic species, and the symptoms said to be favorable, often fail to be so, such as white tongue, copious discharge of urine &c. A cold clammy moisture with cold limbs, is said to portend death. It is said to be favorable after the fourth day, and, still more so the longer the disease continues.

## **PROPHYLAXIS**

Although few diseases could be more easily prevented in the forming stage than this, yet on account of the causes, inducing it, more frequently, causing other diseases, and at times scarcely making an impression on the system, remedies for its prevention are seldom used, till the precursory symptoms arise. To these then, we should be particularly attentive. In the case of wounds, however, we may dread the approach of tetanus, when a wound heals without much inflammation, it being found that a considerable inflammation, either natural or artificial, is one of the surest preventions of tetanus. If therefore, when the symptoms of traumatic tetanus are to be apprehended, we were to create an inflammation in the injured part, by caustics, incision, turpentine, &c., and give something to allay the irritability of the system as given, we might often prevent it from proceeding. Even in the forming stage of idiopathic tetanus it has been arrested, by the exhibition of opium. If the disease, however, is not arrested here, we must resort to remedies, which see likely to afford relief, and those will be considered in the treatment.

## **TREATMENT**

We are called upon here to remove the cause producing the disease and to do away the irregular and diseased excitement of the system. As there is some difference between the idiopathic and traumatic species of the disease, I will treat them separately and first of the idiopathic species. When therefore this disease is produced by irritants in the alimentary canal, it would seem that we should attempt the removal of the cause by either Cathartics or Emetics. Besides removing the particular matter which might be supposed to cause the disease, keeping the bowels open, or removing the constipation which so invariably attends, will be found most likely to be an object of much importance. Cullen says, that “from whatever cause costiveness is induced, whether as a symptom of the disease or from opium that is commonly used, it must be held to aggravate the disease,” and, therefore, directs purges to be given while deglutition remains, and Enemata when it does not. It will be found, I think, upon an attentive examination of the details of many cases of tetanus reported by writers, that where the bowels have been opened and then been suffered to become again constipated, that, as the constipation increased, were the symptoms aggravated. Cases of tetanus said by physicians to be caused by worms, indigestible substances, constipation, &c., and cured by purging, evince pretty clearly their importance. Their propriety, as remedies in tetanus, is still further confirmed by knowing that they are nearly always successful in that spasmodic disease of children, called Trismus Nascentium, arising from the irritation produced by a retention of the meconium. Moseley says that Barrere, a French physician who practiced at Cayenne, used purges with much success. Many others speak highly of them, and I think there is sufficient evidence of their utility in this disease alone, without speaking of its efficacy in those to which I hold it to be nearly allied, to warrant us in

making trial of it. In Epilepsy, Hysteria, Chorea, Sancti viti, few distrust the efficacy of purges. To open the bowels, active purgatives would probably answer best, as they would soonest affect the object. For this purpose might not the Croton oil be a proper article, as it is prompt in its operation, and seems to exert a peculiar influence over the nerves. Use what we may to evacuate the bowels, we should study to keep them open during the whole course of the disease. Emetics might also, I presume, be used with advantage in Tetanus. Nearly all who have treated this disease complain of the torpid state of the stomach and render it susceptible to the impression of medicines, emetics are eminently qualified, and they often by their powerful impression on the system allay spasm, remove difficulty of breathing, and, by their wide spread influence assist materially in tranquilising morbid excitements, which in spasmodic affections, arising from irritation in the canal, they have proved peculiarly useful. In tetanus arising from cold they would doubtless prove highly important, but in this case the internal use of stimulants, as volatile alkali, wine, opium, &c., and the use of the warm bath and other means which will produce diaphoresis, would probably be a better plan; as the pulse in this disease is small, the skin cold, &c., with this plan we will cause the system to react, and may then use purges and such other means as we may deem necessary. Dr. Rush says he has cured some incipient cases of Tetanus by emetics. These medicines will not act at all times, and, in such cases we might try an enema of Tartarized antimony as used by Professor Chapman in case of locked jaw with success. What would be the effects of an injection of an infusion of tobacco in a case of great obstinacy? Of blood letting as a remedy in Tetanus I will now say something. This has not been much extolled by physicians though a few recommend it. Dr. Moseley says Spanish surgeons in the colonies resorted to it, with great confidence in its powers. Larrey used it with much success. Hillary recommended it, and most writers admit that it is proper where fever attends. What medicine can vie with this in the promptness of its operation, in relieving the spasm in Colic, Hysteria, Locked jaw, and others of like nature? Two cases of Trismus coming within my own knowledge were treated by copious venesection, aided by small portions of Opium with prompt and almost unlooked for success. Bleeding even to syncope might I think in violent cases be tried, as it has according to Larrey terminated the disease when it happened in amputation. That blood letting is one of the most powerful antispasmodics is a fact supported by both reason and experience. The remedies used to overcome the diseased excitement of the muscles by exhibiting another superior to it are opium, wine, mercury, &c. Of some of them I will treat and first of opium. The cures from this drug are said to be more numerous than from all others combined. That it has cured in numerous instances, we will all readily believe that it has often failed when used under circumstances favourable for its exhibition we are forced to admit. Opium may be given in this disease in doses sufficient to astonish us, and yet it will at times, produce no evident effects on the system. In such cases the stomach must be in a state of great torpor. Would not an emetic precede the opium here? Many are opposed to using large doses when small ones make no impression on the system. When we exhibit this article and it allays the spasm, its use should by all means, be continued, so as to prevent its recurrence. Incipient and even confirmed cases of this disease are no doubt frequently cured by opium alone. Its powers are said to be much increased by a combination with other substances, as alkalies, camphor, wine and others. This drug is no doubt entitled to much of the praise lavished on it by writers, but that there are cases

to which it is not applicable will I hope be admitted. Its external use in the form of plaster applied to the jaws has been much praised in Trismus. Bark and wine have been used separately, and in combination, and are said to have proved useful in some cases when used in large doses. About the quantity of opium to be given at once we cannot speak, as it will depend on the severity of the attack and other circumstances. For a long time the use of the warm bath was commended highly, but is now pretty generally made to give way to the cold bathing. Cullen speaks highly of this remedy and says it is made use of over the whole of the West Indies. Barrere, a French physician who practiced long since placed great reliance on it. The common mode of applying cold water is to throw it upon the patient, or plunge him into it, then wrap him in blankets, administer opium, and put him to bed. Cold water, in many diseases, is a powerful agent, as it arouses the dormant susceptibility of the system, removes spasmodic contraction of the extreme vessels, and restores a healthy action in the capillaries; whether it is a remedy of decided efficacy in Tetanus let the writings of those who have tried it attest. Hippocrates speaks well of it. Mercury, used so as to effect salivation, has been much extolled by some while others complain of its inefficacy on account of the difficulty of putting the system under its influence. As it appears that the symptoms have given way to a salivation, would it not be proper, besides using calomel purges to remove the contents of the bowels, to effect a salivation in the manner it was produced by Addington of London with corrosive sublimate. Numerous are the remedies which have been tried in this disease, to enumerate them would be useless. The spts. Turpentine, oil of amber, &c., are of the number. So seldom is it that practitioners succeed twice with the same remedy, that we should in a case of this kind, fly from one to another, as they prove unavailing, till we had made trial of all that held out a prospect of relief.

## TRAUMATIC TETANUS

The first object here is to remove the irritating cause producing the disease, if practicable, or to cut off the communication between that and the brain. When Tetanus proceeds from a small wound, punctures, or incisions, and causes of like nature, we should make free incisions into the part, if this can be done with safety, and then apply to it irritating or caustic substances as Cantharides, Turpentine, nitrate of silver, &c. Dr. Rush says, he never yet knew a case to continue, when the spirits of Turpentine was applied in time. Some use caustic to the wound and then poultice it to obtain suppuration. Holding the part, if on any of the extremities, in hot ley, after incisions have been made, is a practice much followed, in the country, and with great success; opium being given internally at the same time. If the irritated part be a finger or toe it might be amputated. Opium, Musk, Castor, Camphor and Turpentine, are among the internal remedies used in traumatic Tetanus. The bowels should I think be kept in a laxative state if possible, and venesection occasionally be resorted to, as in the other species. Opium should be given freely sometimes. Blisters to the spine, from top to bottom, have been found very beneficial, but far better is the application of caustic potash along the whole course of the spinal column. This practice is pursued by Doctor Hartshorne of this city with whom I believe it originated. It is said to be a very effectual practice, and should be tried in all cases of tetanus, when likely to prove obstinate. Larrey who had to contend with many cases of this disease during his campaigns, says, “that of all the remedies proposed by skillful practitioners experience has proved to me,



that extract of opium, combined with camphor, and purified nitrate of potash, and dissolved in a small quantity of emulsion, and given in small doses, acts most favourably. 2<sup>nd</sup>. That amputation performed at a proper time is the most certain means of arresting tetanus when it proceeds from a wound on the extremities.” Much time might be taken up in mentioning the plans pursued by different practitioners who are loud in praise of them, but I shall pass them by and mention only that followed by our highly distinguished professor Doctor Physick. His practice is to administer opium by the rectum largely and at short intervals and rub quantities of mercurial ointment over the body to induce salivation. When this is effected the patient is considered in a favourable way. I would here suggest the propriety of making use of fumigations to assist in effecting the salivation. Opium and mercury may, since supported by such experience, be considered as remedies on which much reliance may be placed in Tetanus. The caustic potash should also stand among the foremost of our remedies.

## THE FIRST THIRTY YEARS IN PRACTICE

Fifteen years are embraced in these few pages. Many of those years have not a record. But (1) my marriage; (2) my father's sickness and death; (3) the birth of several of my children; (4) the taking of our Daguerreotype by Shew in 1847 (July 15<sup>th</sup>), and the death of many of my friends can be found in here. H. C.

### 1832 and 1833

Paid my first visit to Miss Nancy Foulke in September, 1832. Repeated [the visits] for a while every three weeks, then every two weeks until the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of June (Sunday) when I became engaged to her. Visited her every one, two or three weeks from that time until December 26<sup>th</sup>, 1833, when I was married to her in Philadelphia by Joseph Watson, Esq. (formerly Mayor<sup>xxvi</sup>), at his house in Chestnut Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> door above Broad in Chestnut, at 8 o'clock in the evening. My brother Dr. William Corson & Miss Rebecca Rutter acting as witness. We then returned to Mrs. Rebecca Jones' in 13<sup>th</sup> St., just below Chestnut where we spent the evening. Present besides those named: Mrs. Jones, Richard B. Jones [Judge Jones], Miss Martha Rutter and Howel Hopkins, Esq. We staid all night there, left there next day at one P.M. and arrived at Edward Foulke's [father Foulke] at sunset. I staid all night there then returned home next day at 10 A.M.

### 1834

January 1: Wednesday.

Visited her [Nancy, his wife] again in the evening. Staid all night.

January 5: Sunday.

George Corson [Hiram Corson's brother] & wife & myself went to father Foulke's to dine & brought Mrs. Nancy Corson home with us to George Corson's to remain a few days.

January 6: Monday.

George & wife, myself & wife visited at my father's today and dined. Took tea with sister Sarah Read & family. Returned to George's again early in the evening.

January 7: Tuesday.

Practiced in the forenoon. George & myself took Martha & Nancy to see my new home just after dinner. George and myself then attended Nathan Rex's funeral at Jesse Dickinson's at 2 P.M. We all took tea & spent the evening at Jonathan Maulsby's.

January 8: Wednesday.

I practiced. Nancy spent the forenoon and dined at Hannah Williams. In the afternoon we both went, with George & Martha, to Alan W. Corson's and staid till after tea. Spent the evening at George's. Mrs. Dager & David, Miss Sarah and Julia

Leedom, & my brother William, all called in to see Nancy & spent the evening. This morning about day light father was attacked with paralysis of the left side of the face & tongue.

January 9: Thursday.

I visited uncle Thomas Corson in the Great Valley (14 miles distant) found him dying from disease of [the] brain. Staid all night. Nancy at George Corson's.

January 10: Friday.

Left Uncle Thomas, still living at twenty minutes past 6 o'clock. Arrived at home after nine. Practiced until noon, or rather 2 P.M., then took Nancy to her father, and I returned home and staid all night at Jonathan Maulsby's as usual.

January 15: Wednesday.

Visited Nancy at her father's in the evening at 8 o'clock and staid all night with her. Returned home next morning a little after sunrise.

January 19: Sunday.

Visited her [Nancy, his wife] at 7 o'clock in the evening. Staid till next morning after breakfast.

January 26: Sunday.

We moved to the new house that I had built the preceding summer on the road leading from Plymouth Meeting to Peter Dager's new house on the Norristown turnpike, equidistant from the two places.

April 4: Friday.

This morning at one o'clock, my father suddenly and unexpectedly expired. He laboured for some months under an affliction of the chest, hydrothorax, attended with much cough & expectoration of mucus from the lining membrane of the lungs. On the day before his death, William & myself visited him together. He was under our care with respect to medical treatment. We found him sitting up as was usual in his arm chair but he seemed rather weaker, and more oppressed than was usual. On account of feeling much worried by going up stairs, he had his bed brought down that day. We left him in the afternoon, and thinking some good gin would be of use, as a stimulating diuretic<sup>xxvii</sup>, we had it sent to him about sunset. He took some of it and [was] tolerably comfortable through the evening. In fact, he was no worse than was common in the evening. About one o'clock at night, he raised up to cough, seemed much oppressed, and in a few minutes (Thos. Read & family being called in), he was relieved from his suffering. He left a widow, Eleanor Corson (my step-mother, my mother having died 24 years before), six sons (Alan, Joseph,<sup>xxviii</sup> Charles, George, Hiram & William); two daughters (Mary, the wife of Chas. Adamson, and Sarah, the wife of Thos. Read). Grandchildren he left 24, of which Alan had 6, Joseph 4, Chas. 4, Chas. Adamson's wife 4, Sarah Read 5, George Corson 1. These were living. There had been several buried. All his children were married but William. It had been a little past three months. [Father was] buried at Friends burying ground Plymouth, by the side of my mother.

October 14: Tuesday.

Election day. Edward Corson, son of Hiram & Nancy Corson, was born at a quarter past one o'clock P.M. Dr. James Smith in attendance as accoucheur. Hannah Williams, Deborah Yerkes & aunt Susan Foulke assistants. In labour about 16 hours. The nurse Miss Susan Hallowell [for] 4 weeks.

## 1844

August 19: Monday.

It is nearly 10 years since my journal terminated upon the last page. During this time much has happened very interesting to myself & many others.

We have had four more children born: Joseph, Nov. 26, 1836, 10 min. before 5 A.M.; Caroline, April 2, 1839, 25 min. past 2 P.M.; Tacy, January 26, 1841, 2:30 P.M.; Charles Follen, Nov. 22, 1843, 10 min. past 10 A.M.

Of our friends and relatives, many have died: Dr. Richard Corson (of New Hope); Dr. Ramsey Corson (son of Dr. Richard Corson of New Hope); Caroline Corson (daughter of Dr. Richard Corson of New Hope); Thomas P. Johnson, Esq. (father-in-law of Dr. Richard Corson of New Hope); Aunt Susan Foulke; Cousin Rebecca Rutter; Jesse Spencer & Aunt Becky Jones at whose house we were married; Aunt Betsy Corson; our friend Ellwood Maulsby & his father, Samuel Maulsby; Samuel Livezey; Jacob Ritter; Samuel Thomas; Phebe Wood; Rebecca Wilson; Joseph Livezey, besides numerous others.

Charles Foulke studied with me and graduated and has since married Harriet Corson, Dr. Richard Corson's daughter, and established in practice in New Hope. He was rather wild and dissipated for some time after he graduated. Indeed, it seemed as though he would be entirely lost in intemperance. But about 3 years since, he signed the pledge of Total Abstinence and has ever since been a most correct man. Joseph Corson (Alan's son) also studied with me & graduated & is now married at Portsmouth, Ohio, & practicing. He, too, was given up to dissipation at & after the time of graduating, but we hear that he, too, has reformed.

Washington G. Nugent studied with me for nearly 3 years, at the same time with Joseph. He graduated & immediately entered into a matrimonial engagement with Miss Cora Phreneye, daughter of a teacher of French in Philad. He left me & went to live with my brother, Dr. William Corson, in Norristown. He got tired of his engagement in a few weeks, and after some difficulty, I was deputed to visit her & endeavor to reconcile her. I did so, and her father immediately wrote to him discharging him. My practice has continued very good through all this time although it was predicted by many that I would lose it all by my open &, as they said, violent advocacy of Temperance & abolition. It is now about four years since the Temperance cause began to attract the attention of our people. The first lecture delivered in our neighborhood was by a stranger, an agent for a small Temp[erance] paper published in Philad. and who had lost one arm by the misjudgment of a drunken doctor. I was called upon also to lecture. The meeting was at Cold Point School House this side of Alan W. Corson's. I did so. It was my first. A few signed the Total Abstinence pledge. In a few days we called a meeting [at] Plymouth School when George Corson, myself & several others signed the pledge of

Total Abstinence from all intoxicating drinks, and formed a Society. From this time, I continued to lecture through the rest of the year all 'round the neighborhood. Our Society became large, 140 or 150 members before spring. I lectured twice in Hagy's church in Roxborough & 90 signed the pledge; so at various other places, Conshohocken, Sandy Hill, Boehm's church, Upper Merion, Norristown, &c. I lectured often. Mr. Aaron was doing the same thing. Sometimes we were together, sometimes separate. The rum sellers & rum drinkers became furious. We were threatened with tar & feathers, rails, eggs, &c. Hundreds took the pledge, scores of drunkards became sober men. In the summer season large mass meetings took places in the open air. Banners with various devices were carried.

[Caroline had blood] in her stools. Gave her 15 drops of laudanum every 6 hours, which kept her quite comfortable, spiced rhei 2 ounces: Cal. gr.i in every 3 hours. I attended a large mass meeting at Evansburg today and made the first speech.

August 25: Sunday.

Caroline the same. Treat[ment] continued.

August 26: Monday.

Caroline's stools green. Better appearance, [feels] herself more comfortable, a trifle more.

August 27: Tuesday.

[Caroline] a little better, does not vomit. Treat[ment] continued. Has not yet eaten a mouthful, but takes food today and slept all last night without being up. I was called on Sunday night to James Cresson's in consultation with Dr. Leedom to two children dangerously ill with scarlet fever, & attended twice a day with him since. My treatment consists entirely almost of ice to the head, throat & inside of mouth.

August 28: Wednesday.

Caroline somewhat better. Stools dark green, no blood, &c.

September 1: Sunday.

Caroline improving, [has] soreness & stiffness of her limbs. She has been dreadfully weakened. Appetite improving.

September 11: Thursday.

Caroline has steadily improved and is now pretty well. Has been riding about, &c. Two of James Cresson's children (both girls) have died. I have had a great many patients with scarlet fever, all of whom have done well by early vomiting with Ipecac, purging Jalap & cream of tartar, and then using ice internally (held in mouth and freely swallowed) & ice externally to the neck, cold water to head, &c.

Politics running high. The Whigs and Democrats have each had a mass meeting in this county, at which from 10,000 to 15,000 persons assembled, so also in many other counties. The Whigs invited the ladies and had them present by the thousands. The Democrats did not allow them to be present. I belong, as do most of our family, to the antislavery political party, or as it is called the Third Party.<sup>xxix</sup> Birney<sup>xxx</sup> [is] our

candidate for President & Thos. Morris Vice [President].<sup>xxx</sup> We are very few in numbers yet in this county. Four years ago we polled but eleven votes.

## 1847

May 1: Saturday.

It is nearly 3 years since I last wrote. In that time we have had a daughter that we named Susan, after her great aunt and aunt Susan Foulke. I have gone on practicing and lecturing as usual, but Temp[erance] lecturing has subsided very much. Many counties in this state have a right to decide by vote whether any liquor shall be sold within their limits or not. The tavern keepers in Chester County have had a meeting and decided to fence up their houses, so as to keep travelers from watering at them.

Last summer at an August woods meeting, I was an invited speaker and came out in opposition to the Order of the Sons of Temperance on account of their allowing Root Beer, pop, &c. It produced a great disturbance, but it has had a happy effect in putting down those drinks in the estimation of Temp. men.

Our property now is \$2000 as est. The place we live on, lot of 1 ½ acres, back lane by Geo. Corson (value \$300), 14 lots in Norristown, one lot above Hickorytown gate (cost \$90), house and lot in Plymouth Village, home & lot at Sp. Mill (those houses rent for \$50 per piece), 3 small building lots at Spring Mill, 5 ½ acres of hill land over [the] Schuylkill and book accounts. We have a student who has been with me since last September, Mr. Charles Heysham.

Susan Corson (brother George's daughter), aged 14, died of consumption about one month since.

July 15: Thursday.

Took wife and children today and had their likeness taken by the Daguerreotype process by T. B. Shew, Chestnut Street, Mrs. Corson, Edward, Tacy & little Susan in one group, myself, Joseph, Caroline and Charles Follen in the other. Price for all ten dollars. They are all said to be most excellent, except Susan's, whose mouth moved a little.

### EXPENSES FROM APRIL 1ST, 1830

Stomach tubes - - - - -	1.25
Boot for hat - - - - -	3.00
Expenses - - - - -	.75
Do. at A. Williams wedding, April 8 <sup>th</sup> - - - - -	.25
Paper for writing - - - - -	.25
Annual paymt. Norris Library - - - - -	1.00
Gave a Negro, April 13 - - - - -	.05
Expenses at Norristown, 13 <sup>th</sup> - - - - -	.15
Washing sulky - - - - -	.25
Oats for horses at Hickorytown - - - - -	1.00
Scudamore on Gout <sup>xxxii</sup> - - - - -	.75
Expenses going to town and back with Lester - - - - -	1.75
Watch hands for William Corson - - - - -	.50
Watch, key & chain for myself - - - - -	40.00

Pill boxes -----	.18 $\frac{3}{4}$
Oranges -----	.12
Cost on Job Kirkbride's suit -----	.44
Medicine from Carpenter -----	3.62
Gave traveler -----	.12

#### May, 1830

Going to town, May 6 <sup>th</sup> -----	1.50
Cravat stiffner -----	.08
May 15: Going to Manayunk in a party -----	.50
May 16: To P. A. Brown's lecture <sup>xxxiii</sup> -----	.25
Oats of M. Maulsby, 20 bus[hels] at 31 Ps. -----	6.20
May 18: Toll & porter -----	.12
Saddle girth -----	.25
May 14: Expenses in Norris[town] -----	.25
Battalion -----	.62
May 22: Trip to Bucks (County) -----	1.00

#### June, 1830

June 8: Expenses going to Charles Corson's -----	.62
June 9: Paid Sam Freas for oats got last year -----	2.40
Orange & lemon -----	.07
June 13: Stephen Prall for care of horse -----	.25
June 14: Jonathan Maulsby's bill -----	14.15
Jonathan Maulsby for board -----	50.00
June 15: Horner's Anatomy, Pathological -----	2.50
Bakewell's Geology by Silliman <sup>xxxiv</sup> -----	3.00
Conversations on vegetable physiology -----	.81 $\frac{1}{4}$
Expenses going to town & back -----	2.00
Getting sulky spring mended -----	.75
Paid J. Maulsby for board -----	54.00
do, do, store bill -----	14.65
Braid -----	.37 $\frac{1}{2}$
Curry comb -----	.28
June 21: Expense for lemonade in Norristown with Jane ----	.25
Pair hemp stockings -----	.50

#### July, 1830

July 2: Expenses going to Philad. & back -----	1.00
Lemonade since Norristown -----	.25
Bottles, mustard to make plasters for poor man -----	.12
Sundries -----	.12
Gloves -----	.18 $\frac{3}{4}$
Toll -----	.12
Gloves -----	.18 $\frac{3}{4}$
Paper -----	.12

Quills -----	.06 ¼
Lemonade & hair cutting, Norris[town] -----	.25
Postage -----	.12
Shoe brushes -----	.25
Toll & drink going to Manayunk -----	.18 ¾
Leeches -----	1.00

#### August, 1830

Paid at the bank \$50 and the discount of \$150 more for 3 months which was \$2.35, having to take up my note To Thomas Read for \$200. -----	50.00
[not legible] -----	2.35
George Ritter for James Wood's board -----	3.13 ½
Expenses at Norris[town] during court -----	1.00
Paid George \$5.00 for William -----	5.00
Paid Charles Hagy for harness -----	38.50
Hat (besides old one) -----	2.50
Stephen Prall -----	.25
Oil -----	.25
Getting sulky mended -----	.75
Expense to the city -----	1.00
Steel pill box -----	.50
Toll for a week or two -----	.50
Corn for horse -----	.55
Oil -----	.12
Expense at Norris[town] -----	.12
Corn -----	.55
Expense going to County meeting -----	1.00
do do Chestnut Hill -----	.25
Toll- -----	.25
Going to Paoli -----	.75
Academy of Nat. Science of Mont'y Co. fee -----	5.00
Paid M. Maulsby -----	1.12
Township election & postage -----	.37
Paid George for Wm.'s hats -----	4.00
Samuel Freas for six bus[hells] oats at 35 -----	2.10
Honey of Ezra Comfort -----	.25
Hire for books at library- -----	.25
Ferriage -----	.25
Expenses at Norris[town] -----	.25
Toll -----	.50
Expenses to Philad. -----	1.00
Book on Galvanism by Green <sup>xxxv</sup> -----	.62

#### November, 1830



Paid in bank, Nov. 3 <sup>rd</sup> . - - - - -	51.56
Paid William - - - - -	21.00
Expenses at Court, Nov. 16: - - - - -	.18 $\frac{3}{4}$
Watch crystal - - - - -	.18 $\frac{3}{4}$
Comstock's Mineralogy - - - - -	.87
Book hire - - - - -	.25
Expense at Court, 17 <sup>th</sup> - - - - -	.75
Lantern [sic] - - - - -	.37
Oil - - - - -	.12
Warm plasters - - - - -	.40
Meeting of [Medical] Society at Norristown - - - - -	.50
Expense to Philad. & back - - - - -	2.00
Bell on the Teeth - - - - -	2.00
Hat (besides the old one) - - - - -	2.50

December, 1830

Gloves - - - - -	1.25
Catherine Kern for washing one year, Dec. 4: - - - - -	13.50
Boot for whip (sulky whip) - - - - -	.25
Rees Harry for ferriage - - - - -	1.25
Paid Saml. Roberts for shoeing - - - - -	1.92
Going to Trap[pe] on New Years day - - - - -	1.00
Oil - - - - -	.25
Paper - - - - -	.25
Sleighbg & cotillion - - - - -	10.00
Toll and ferriage - - - - -	2.50
Horse - - - - -	81.75
Father for oats - - - - -	2.31
Expense to city - - - - -	2.00
Lancet blade - - - - -	.25
Olive oil - - - - -	.56
Discount - - - - -	1.50
3 towels - - - - -	.37
Oil - - - - -	.12
Germantown Telegraph - - - - -	2.12
Costers Physiological Medicine <sup>xxxvi</sup> - - - - -	2.00
For P. R. Freas' Paper, 3 months - - - - -	.50
Sundries - - - - -	1.00
Charity (J. Butler's &c) - - - - -	4.00
Library share, Norristown - - - - -	4.00
THE PRAIRIE - - - - -	.50
Joshua C. Jenkins' bill - - - - -	82.98
Repairing J. Maulsby's Gig - - - - -	9.00
Trip to Easton - - - - -	1.50
Going to - - - - -	.50

Going to Philad. - - - - -	1.25
Book - - - - -	1.50
Breast pin - - - - -	.25
Silver pessary - - - - -	3.00
Dictionary & Neuralgia- - - - -	3.00
Expense to Philad. - - - - -	1.25
Looking glass - - - - -	1.62
Sundries - - - - -	1.00
E. C. Leedom's bill - - - - -	6.50
Medicine at Carpenter's - - - - -	2.35
Ferriage - - - - -	1.00
Hat - - - - -	2.00
Whip - - - - -	.50
Medical Journal - - - - -	5.00
Sundries - - - - -	.50

## 1852

September 1: Wednesday.

[From April 3, 1828] to this [day], I have practiced without intermission, my income rising from a few hundred dollars a year to about \$2,000 and now, for the last three or four years, to about \$3,000 per year.

[When we married], I was then 29 years of age & Miss Foulke past 21 years. We now have eight children. The eldest, Edward Foulke Corson, will be 18 years of age next Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup>, when he is to begin the study of medicine. He and Joseph have been going to school, to the Rev. Samuel Aaron at Norristown, for several years, and he has now a pretty good English education, with a tolerable knowledge of Latin & French. Joseph, next son, is still going to Mr. Aaron. Caroline, Tacie F., Charles Follen Corson, Susan F. & Bertha C. Corson all go to school to Miss Rebecca Rex, a teacher that we have in our own schoolhouse within two hundred yards of our house. Frances Stockton Corson, the youngest, not yet three years old, plays about home. I have one hired man, Isaac Shaw, who has been with me for about 10 years; also Rose Smith, an Irish girl, with us not quite one year. Three horses, two cows, dozen cats, &c., &c.

October 8: Friday.

I am this day forty-eight years of age and have practiced medicine in this neighborhood twenty-four years and a half.

October 20: Wednesday.

Have been much pressed in practice since the first of the month. Caroline began to take lessons on the guitar yesterday. Teacher Mr. Enoch Supplee. Edward began to study medicine on the 14<sup>th</sup>, the day he was 18 years of age. A severe pseudomembranous pharyngitis has prevailed in three families, though [they live] at great distances apart. My friend William Ely died yesterday, his son one week ago.

October 22: Friday.

Practiced much, & attended W. Ely's funeral.

October 24: Sunday.

The Telegraph announced the death of the Honorable Daniel Webster this morning at 3 o'clock. He was not considered dangerously ill until yesterday. I met the Medical Society [Montgomery County] in Skippackville. We had an interesting meeting. Practiced hard until 11 A.M., then rode 12 miles to the meeting, staid until 5 P.M. Returned & found I had six calls. Attended one case of labour, one abortion, one croup, 1 violent pain in head, one of dysentery & one broken ribs by fall. Got home at midnight. Practiced \$22 worth last 24 hours.

October 28: Thursday.

Attended the great whig meeting at Valley Forge, took Edward with me. I think it is a great advantage to take the boys with me to large meetings of this kind to accustom them to mingle with the best society. For being with me, they become acquainted with gentlemen & were habituated to behave well & to avoid the rude, boisterous crowd that always gathers at such places. Some would say, it were better never to take them at all, but I think differently. Young men will go into company, will attend great meetings & therefore it is best to start them well. 10,000 people present at the meeting.

October 31: Sunday.

Several bad patients, 20. [Started] at 3 A.M., practiced until 8 P.M., then began my annual address to the State Medical Society.<sup>xxxvii</sup> I find it no easy matter to get under way. Nancy [Mrs. Corson] sick all day confined to bed.

November 2: Tuesday.

Practiced much. This is the day of general election all over the United States for Presidential Electors. There are four sets of candidates, one for General Scott & W. Graham, one for Frank Pierce & King, one for Hale [John P. Hale] and Julian and a Native American Ticket.

November 3: Wednesday.

The election ended last night at 7 o'clock. The Ledger newspaper issued this morning, before daylight, contains news from almost every state from Texas to Maine, sufficient to state that Pierce, the Democratic candidate, will be elected by a vast majority. The Telegraph offices were kept open all night.

November 4: Thursday.

Practiced much. Democrats triumphing.

November 5: Friday.

Rained heavily. Went to Philad. in the cars to see Molly Conard (my cousin who nursed us when we were young after our mother died) who is dying from cancer of the breast, also to meet a young lady who has applied to teach the children. Passing along the street at the corner of 7<sup>th</sup> & Market, I met Dr. McClennaghan, who had been very hostile to me for several years; he spoke very pleasantly to me, put out his hand, shook my hand and inquired after my health. I was surprised, told him I was looking for an eating house. He took me to an excellent place (Proser's oyster cellar), and we had some

oysters & a good chat. A patient of mine had gone to get a supporter of him a few weeks before & was, I think, the cause of his feeling kindly towards me. It is pleasant to be reconciled to one who has been hostile to us.

November 6: Saturday.

Rained all day. Practiced much. Wrote part of my address.

November 12: Friday.

Very rainy morning. [The community] is very healthy now. Have been engaged in practice since Saturday very steadily, & in reading. Rev. Lewis Pettit spent last evening here. Quite a discussion was gotten up between us, on the subject of the Old Testament. Sent Edward to Philad. yest. to see how my cousin Mary Conard is, who is suffering much from cancer.

November 13: Saturday.

Read Theodore Parker's sermon on death of Daniel Webster. It is filled with thoughts of a great mind mourning over the fall of a massive intellect, like Webster was. He portrays in the strongest colours the incidents that hurried Webster on in the road to ruin & to death.<sup>xxxviii</sup>

November 26: Friday.

Rained hard last night; raining this morning. Nancy poorly last night & today. At 11 ¼ A.M., we had our ninth child (sixth daughter born to us). Very rainy. Present, Nancy's mother. Tracie Foulke and Mary Cresson, wife of James Cresson our neighbor, sent Isaac Shaw for Mrs. Maria Super who has been our nurse for perhaps five of the children. Isaac brought the nurse about 3 P.M. Very rainy all the evening.

November 27: Saturday.

Mother and child doing well. Clear, fine evening. I forgot to say that Sallie Holly, an antislavery woman from Rochester, N. York, lectured in the Hall one evening last week. [I am] healthy at present.

November 28: Sunday.

Practiced. Read. Wrote at my address in the evening.

December 5: Sunday.

Bad headache nearly all day. Practiced some. William came down & spent the afternoon. Weather has been very warm & during the last week & rained hard during two days. Read a few chapters in the Book of Samuel to the children & their mother. At this moment, 10 P.M., feel very well.

December 7: Tuesday.

This morning Miss Julia Rider of Camden, N.J., opened our school as teacher. She came up yesterday and as we were too full to accommodate her, I asked Mr. Cresson to do it, and they accordingly agreed. Miss Rider has been educated in Connecticut, and was originally from Rochester, N. York. I advertised in the Public Ledger for a teacher,

one to [teach] the ordinary branches of an English education, was qualified to teach French. I am to give her \$25 per month, James Cresson and myself [take care of] all the expense, and then we take other scholars than our own children and charge \$4 per yr. and furnish them all the books. At present we have 15 scholars.

December 16: Thursday.

Have not been at all pressed into professional business for a week. Am reading much of medical works. Miss Rider proves to be a most excellent teacher and governess. Weather still continues very mild.

*Uncle Tom's Cabin*, a work published last spring by Harriet Beecher Stowe, a kind of romance in which the horrors of slavery are shown up in man, after more than a hundred thousand copies have been sold in this country, and many more in France, England, Germany, &c., being issued in cheap forms at 37 ½ cts. each. Also illustrated & with gilt binding at \$5 per copy. It is astonishingly popular, praised & quoted in every paper, but the slaveholders and apologists are raving.

December 25: Saturday.

Our little girl was four weeks old yesterday. No name yet. Mary & Virginia seem to be at the top of the list (of about 40) at present. Her mother came down to dinner today and to a supper of fine oysters this evening. It has been quite warm since I last wrote; one or two mornings a pretty good ice, but generally mud and rain. Dr. Samuel Jackson came up in the cars to see Myra Yerkes with me. He was delighted to see the green grain fields as green and fresh looking as in May.

December 26: Sunday.

As I passed through Spring Mill Village this day at one o'clock, I saw several little boys and girls playing upon the green sod. They had taken off their boots & stockings, piled them up in a heap, and with their pants rolled up were playing corners.

December 27: Monday.

Very warm and rainy.

December 28: Tuesday.

Sunrise. Thermometer 56 degrees, wind from the south. I wrote late last night at my address.

## 1853

January 1: Saturday.

New Years morning. Six o'clock, raining. There has yet been no ice in the morning but upon two or three occasions. The thermometer is at 52 degrees this morning. The funeral of Miss Miriam Yerkes will take place today at one o'clock. She was one of my playmates at school more than 40 years ago.

January 2: Sunday.

We named our little girl "Mary." I rode today 10 miles up country to see a patient with Dr. Ply, and in the afternoon [rode] 10 miles toward Philad. to see Miss Bowman whom I have attended for some time, which, besides my other riding, have made me very tired.

January 3: Monday.

Still quite warm and very muddy. No ice. Practiced. Collected money and attended the meeting of the monthly Co. Temp. Society.

Our income for the last year from the practice was about 2,900 dollars & from rents & int[erests] about \$400.

March 14: Monday.

Weather very cold today, but this winter has been very moderate, with much rain. Sickness has increased within a month. My pulse has been intermittent occasionally during the past 2 years, and for several months past, I have had a strange nervous tremour in my breast, or else it was a feeling produced by some heart disease. I feel daily as though I am labouring under disease of heart. My symptoms are a slight oppression, at the top of the sternum, occasionally palpitations, intermittent pulse whenever I lie upon the right side, and often when I am at rest sitting or standing.

I have been engaged for several months every evening in reading & writing for my address. Some weeks I did not get a moment to spare from my practice. If occasionally I get an evening, I stay up & read until 11 or 12 at night.

Charles Follen Corson, our son, had a most severe attack of croup yesterday, after dinner. Edward & myself went out to practice. Joseph was soon mounted on a horse to hunt us, but we returned about 4 P.M. without having seen Joseph. The poor little fellow (now about 10 years old) was nearly strangled, though somewhat relieved by the emetic that his mother had given him, purged him, put mustard to neck, &c. At 9 P.M., I was called away & kept until two in the morning. He is better today, but weak. Miss Eliz. Corson, Dr. Ri[chard] D. Corson's daughter, has been staying with us about two weeks.

March 29: Tuesday.

A few days ago, I think last Thursday (24<sup>th</sup>), Mary Bowman gave me her will to read. She directed her funeral expenses & debts to be paid. Then she left to Henry Bowman Jr., son of her brother Henry, \$1,000; to his mother \$400; to her brother Henry (I think \$100); to Mary Bowman Gibney \$1,500 to educate her and \$500 to be put on interest until she reaches the age of 30 years. Should she die before this age, then the balance of the money, if any, to be expended in education of her brother & sister. To the child's mother Betty Gibney \$100; to Michael Gibney \$1,000; to Emma McKuen \$200; to a colored woman (Ann Stokely, I think) \$50; to Mrs. Crum \$400; to Mary Hunter some finery articles and \$50; to Michael Gibney all of the farming utensils & produce hay; to his wife all the household furniture except certain articles left to some others; to Mrs. Crump all the clothes; to Dr. H. Corson her horse Norman, also all the residue of her estate to aid him in acts of benevolence. I think there were some other legacies, but I do not now recollect them.

On Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>, I visited her again and in the presence of Mary Hunter I told Mary Bowman that I wished now to say in the presence of Mary Hunter (to whom Mary Bowman had shown the will) that I protested against the will, that I thought Mary Bowman should have left her brother Joshua Bowman a legacy and that at least \$1,000 of what was left to the Irish family should have been left to him; that I wished Mary Hunter to know that all my efforts to induce Mary Bowman to forget the differences between herself & her brother & to provide something for his support had failed; that I felt, that holding a responsible place in that will, people would readily believe that I had acquiesced in its provisions; that on the contrary, I was extremely dissatisfied with it. I forgot to say that I was appointed executor. Joshua has been absent from the place about two or three weeks. Today, March 29, 1853, at 5 P.M., I arrived at Miss M. Bowman's & met Joshua in the home. He told me he had arrived in the neighborhood on [the] second day, that he had seen Mary Hunter & she had informed him of the contents and provisions of the will. He told me also that Mrs. Crump had been up the day before (28<sup>th</sup>) and had advised Mary Hunter to throw the will into the fire as soon as Mary Bowman should die; that others also had told him that the will should be destroyed. I told him that I would have nothing to do with the will as executor & that I did not wish any legacies. As I came home just after sunset, I came up to Joshua just beyond Hoppins & he rode with me beyond Warner Roberts, and it was during this ride that most of the above conversation took place.

March 31: Thursday.

I visited Mary Bowman again this afternoon. She is suffering from a sense of great fullness in stomach, great heat internally, a burning sensation. Fluids of every kind aggravate it. Can take but little food, is very petulant and altogether in a most distressed condition. Advised soda powder, gum arabic water, &c. Mary Hunter informed me that she saw John Wainright last evening. [There is] a will (unsigned and made years ago) in which M. Bowman had bequeathed everything to her sister Sarah, also a paper signed by Marg. Bowman making the same disposal of her property. This last paper must be, I think, the sketch drawn by her own hand & sent to John Wainright to draw the will by, in due form & order. To destroy the late will would be probably to establish this.

I have rode much today.

April 21: Thursday.

5 P.M. Mary S. Bowman died. She had been in a sad state of mind for some time past, would not permit her sisters or brothers to be about her and had quarreled with nearly all those who tried to serve her. She had become so dissatisfied with me, because I protested against her will, that I was compelled to discontinue my visits. For nearly a week before her death, I did not see her. The evening of her death I was sent for & next day I went home. They gave me the will. Just before her death she cut off that part of the will in which she had given \$2,000 to the little Irish girl and then wrote on a small piece of note paper a substitute for it in which she disposed of this money to half dozen others. I placed the will & substitute in the hands of Ann Jackson, an aged minister among Friends and who has long been the friend of the Bowman family. She is to be buried on Sunday next, April 24<sup>th</sup>, to meet at her residence at 2 P.M. & buried at Merion Friends Meeting.

April 24: Sunday.

Very rainy. This forenoon a grandson of uncle Jesse Rex came up from Philad. to inform us of the death of uncle Rex's daughter Mary, widow of John Conard, Esq. After the death of Esq. Conard, with whom she hired out a few months, and who has been dead nearly, if not quite, thirty years, she returned to her father's house and shortly afterward, they moved to Philad., namely uncle, Mary, Hannah & Martha, their half sister. Sally had married Christopher Rex, her cousin. They moved to a home in St. John's Street, below Beaver. It was then sparsely settled there. After a few years, uncle died. The girls continued to reside there, and pay their rent (\$60 per year) & support themselves by tailoring. They cont'd. for 25 years, but age, infirmities & depression in prices, combined to render them unable to meet all their expenses. About 3 years since, they found themselves unable almost to work & compelled to inform us of their necessities. She had nursed my brother Geo. & Wm. & myself when we were young and our mother gradually declining with consumption, and staid with our sisters after mother deceased and aided in bringing us up, until father married again. Now we could not forsake her. So we & Alan have been furnishing both of them with money to pay rent, and also to live upon for these last three years. Patty, their half sister, had learned a trade & was making her own living. At six o'clock in the morning I took my daughter Caroline and went to Philad. to attend Mary Conard's funeral. We left her residence at 9 o'clock A.M. and arrived at Plymouth Meeting at 12 noon. There were, besides the hearse, some hired carriages, also A. W. Corson's carriage, Richard Osborn Conard's, & ours. At the Meeting House, we met all my brothers & sisters, except Joseph. There were also many of her old friends, Abby Dickinson, and Martha Dickinson, their cousins and my sister Mary Adamson came and dined with us. In the afternoon, I rode nearly 25 miles in my practice.

May 2: Monday.

At 11 o'clock, I left home for N. York to meet the American Med. Association tomorrow at 11 o'clock A.M. At 4 ½ P.M. left Philad. in the steam boat, arrived at N.Y. at 9 P.M. & put up at the St. Nicholas Hotel.

May 3: Tuesday.

(Morning). Met my old friend Robert Rodgers, M.D. at the Irving House.

May 4: Wednesday.

Attended the meetings of the Association yesterday. Attended entertainment at the house of Esq. Finch, Dr. Wood, Drs. Parker, Wood, &c. Attended convention, also attended 4 entertainments.

May 5: Thursday.

Convention. Visited Staten Island, Greenwood Cemetery, &c

May 6: Friday.

Left for home at 9 o'clock A.M., arrived at 5 P.M. Found all well. Dr. Lewis W. Read had attended to my practice. There were about 600 delegates to the convention.



As the Eastern train was passing along about 40 miles from N. York, it was precipitated into a river, on account of the bridge being left open, and 49 persons were killed, among whom were about six physicians who were going home from the convention.

May 25: Wednesday.

I left home at 8 o'clock A.M. for Philad. to attend the State Medical Society, to meet in Philad. today at 11 A.M. As the president, I called the Society to order at 11 o'clock A.M. After preliminary business, I began my address at 12 ½ o'clock. It occupied one hour. I was voted the thanks of the Society and a copy of it solicited for publication among the transactions of the Society.

May 27: Friday.

5 P.M. Society adjourned to meet in Pottsville at 11 A.M. on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday in May, 1854. Delegates present at the meeting just around 75, almost 20 more than in former years.

June 4: Saturday.

About dusk I was sent for to see Mrs. McKee, the wife of the man living in our tenant house at the lower part of our lot. Not being at home, Mrs. Corson accompanied the husband to see his wife. She stopped a moment at the gate to speak to me, as she saw me coming. She stepped on & a large dog sprang upon her, seized her by the arm & tore it deeply. She was in great pain that night & suffered much for several days. I first poured warm water upon it for about half hour, then applied a lye poultice<sup>xxxix</sup> for 12 or more hours, then an elm bark poultice for days.

June 19: Sunday.

Nancy has suffered considerably with the arm, but it is now healed up so as to be dressed with adhesive plaster, and she uses the arm very well. Our children have had a slight scarlet fever during the last two weeks. Rose, the Irish girl, is quite poorly today. Aunt Susan Foulke also has had it last week. On Thursday last Thomas Read & myself started at sunrise to go & see a son of Esq. Moore at Weymouth, N. Jersey, about 52 miles from here. We had my two mares, Jinny and Sorrel; [went] to Uncle William's. We had a most pleasant ride and arrived there at 5 P.M. We then went with Esq. Moore six miles further to Mays Landing, the head of sloop navigation of the Great Egg Harbour River, returned to Weymouth before dark. Mr. Colwell and family, to whom belong all the works at Weymouth & eighty thousand acres land around them, came to Mr. Moore's & spent the night there, as well as ourselves. Mr. Colwell came down to take possession of his new summer residence, a magnificent building erected on the higher ground overlooking Weymouth, but as his furniture has not yet arrived, he proposed to stay a few days at Esq. Moore's. I suggested to him the propriety of erecting houses in Jersey made of mortar brick instead of frame. Mortar bricks are made of only lime & sand. He looked at it as a most valuable improvement. My visit to Esq. Moore's was to see his son Samuel who has been for about six months getting more & more lame from what proves to be a disease of the hip joint. He should have been more early attended to. Before I went to bed, I applied to the whole right side of the body, leg & foot, a gutta-percha mould. This article being put into hot water becomes quite soft and then can be

molded to any substance. Next morning I found it quite hard & firm. The boy (9 years old) easy, & ordering him a solution of Sodium & Hyd. Pot., we started at 9 A.M. for home. A distance of 15 miles from Weymouth is through a country of pines, a single road of sand, not a single hut for many miles. We arrived at Philad. at 5 ½ P.M., took tea with Percy at 7 P.M. & returned home at 10 P.M. Found all well and Levi Oberholtzer, my student, had attended well to my patients. The first day I rode 64 miles, the next 54. Getting in hay today.

June 20: Monday.

Out last night from 2 to 3 with an obstetric case, wife of Ezekiel Wood. Daughter. Rose half hour after sunrise. Thermometer at 75 degrees. Last night as dry, I think, as I ever experienced, no dew of consequence. Received a letter from Edward last evening, who is at Jeanesville among the mountains, living there now two months with Dr. Thomas Corson, studying medicine. Practiced but little today.

June 21: Tuesday.

Thermometer 75 in morning, 99 degrees at 2 P.M. by Dylwyn Benish's thermometer, corner 8<sup>th</sup> & Arch. I went to Philad. at 11 A.M., came back at 3 P.M. Practiced. Men got in hay.

June 22: Wednesday.

Sunrise, 75 degrees. Intensely hot all day. Practiced.

June 23: Thursday.

Dreadfully hot all day. Many people bushed. Some died from heat yesterday. Practiced moderately.

June 24: Friday.

A windy gust last evening that cooled the air very much. It has been very pleasant all day. Practiced. Went to hear C. Burleigh's<sup>xl</sup> lecture.

June 25: Saturday.

Quite cool. Practiced. Sold my Sorrel mare to Levi for \$65; [she] had become lame. We have taken in a great deal of fine hay this week.

## 1854

October 8: Sunday.

Fifty years old this day. It is more than a year since I last wrote in this journal. Since then many things have occurred. Edward was all last winter at the medical lectures at the University of Pa. Joseph was at Mr. Aaron's school. We were all well. My practice has been good all the time, but I am called out less frequently at night than formerly as I have dropped many of the troublesome Irish families.

Levi graduated last spring and established himself at Conshohocken. We have dug about 3000 tons of iron ore since this time last year, and sold it at \$2.50 per ton.

Joseph (my son) went, about 3<sup>rd</sup> of September, to J. C. & Mr. Savary, grandsons of Wm. Savary, the Friend, to learn the drug business. They are to give him fifty dollars per year the first & 2nd. years and \$100 for the 3<sup>rd</sup>. and 4<sup>th</sup>.

Today George & wife & brother Wm. came by invitation and took tea with me.

October 9: Monday.

Joseph went to the drugstore, and Edward went to hear the introductory lectures. He has had the hoopin [sic] cough for three weeks and is not yet quite well. If his cough should prove troublesome, he will not stay. Practiced. Went with James Cresson to Norristown to hear Gov. Bigler<sup>xlii</sup> make a stump speech after dark. Stroud<sup>xliii</sup> took my Daguerreotype today.

October 10: Tuesday.

This is election day. A whole host of offices from governor down are to be elected. A new political sect has arisen called "Know-Nothings." The natives whigs and Know-Nothings (the latter being a mixture of natives, whigs and Democrats) are acting in opposition to the "Old Line" Democrats. The Know-Nothings have elected their candidate in nearly all the great cities during the present year. Practiced and spent some time at the election. I forgot to say that the Know-Nothings have as their object the extension of the term of residence before naturalization to twenty-one years to prevent foreigners from holding office, the humiliation of Catholicism, &c., &c.

October 11: Wednesday.

Practiced all day. The returns have come in rapidly but have not heard who is to be the governor. Bertha and Mary have the hooping [sic] cough badly. Bertha is very sick this evening, not from the cough, but some other cause. Caroline & Miss Rider & Robt. R. Corson have gone to spend the evening with Benjm. Harry's family. Robt. has been superintending my ore digging for several months. Brother George is suffering from a most distressing cough. He has had it for several years, but it is very harassing now. He is weak and much emaciated. I sold \$1,200 of ore to Plymouth Furnace this day on the following terms. He is to give me \$2.50 per ton. I am to take four lots on the Main Street, 20 ft. front, 180 ft. deep, at \$150 per lot, and a note for the remaining \$600 at 4 mo., drawn two months after the delivery of the ore. Last spring I bought 3 lots for \$400. Today I sold them to David Wood for \$600. He to fence them in with his own now and to pay me next April.

October 16: Monday.

Weather changed yesterday from very warm to cold. No fire has been needed in the parlour for two weeks until yesterday. Today also, it is quite cold. Last Saturday evening there was a large party at George Corson's in honour of the marriage of Hannah Albertson to Josiah Jones. We were there late on account of a severe surgical case. Received a letter from Isaac Roberts of Norristown this evening, agreeing to take three lots off me on DeKalb Street and running to Green, at \$2000 for them all, half in money on the first of April next, the other half to be bought out in lots at this coming sale next Saturday week. For those three lots I gave \$500 about 3 years ago.

October 27: Friday.

Since I last wrote, Oct. 16, there has not been the least rain. The weather is warm and pleasant. Many people here are without water in their cisterns. On Wednesday I attended the antislavery convention at West Chester. It was the last of a three days meeting. I met with the noted champions of Woman's Rights, Emma Cae, Susan B. Anthony of Rochester, Lucy Stone, Lucretia Mott, &c.

Last week they had a Woman's Rights meeting in Philad. It continued three days and produced quite a sensation and made a favorable impression. The meeting adjourned at 2 P.M. (I mean the antislavery) and after 3 P.M., after dinner at Joshua Hoopes with E. M. Davis, &c., we took the cars for home. There were a great number of the members of the convention with us and conspicuous among them all, Wm. Lloyd Garrison.<sup>xliii</sup> He is a great man to lead in this cause. He has no equal. At Morgan's Corner, George, Martha & myself took our carriage and arrived home before sunset.

Yesterday, my young hired man, Moses Byrnes, fell into the ore quarry, a depth of 44 feet, put his ankle out and otherwise injured himself. For a time he was thought dead. I saw him a few minutes after he fell. He is doing well today. Young Enoch Parvin was run over by a heavy loaded wagon and his shoulder severely injured.

November 1: Wednesday.

Yesterday I was called to see Jacob Gabel, with cholera. Himself, wife & six children have been eating oysters and are now all more or less affected by cholera. The father died last evening. I am also attending an Irishman similarly affected by the same cause.

Son Joseph went back to his place this evening though I do not think him fit to go. I am very much engaged in practice.

November 2: Thursday.

Practiced all day. Excessively engaged today. Cholera patients better. Many calls after night. Did not get through till 11 ¼ P.M. Was not well. Have a fluttering and palpitation of heart. Cannot lie on my right side at all without it. Always worse upon first lying down.

November 3: Friday.

Warm. Called rather before usual time to send medicine. Feel nervous and fluttering at heart. Robert R. Corson has been with me superintending the ore digging since July first, I think. We have five hands now, and are getting the finest quality ore. Joseph returned last evening. His whooping cough is too bad to allow him to be in the store.

Evening. I have practiced hard all day. Joseph has been middling sick today. He has both whooping cough & jaundice. It is now half past 10 P.M. and I have just returned from Isaac Jones Senr.

November 4: Saturday.

Changing to cold. Practiced hard all day. Had much palpitation and irregular action of the heart all day, until evening, when I felt entirely free from it. I now, 10 P.M., feel sound and well. The weather changed to cold today. This feels like a

winter's night. R. R. Corson went with Caroline to Philad. She is to stay until Sunday next.

November 6: Monday.

Feel better. Practiced much. Brother George has had most horrid cough for some months. Has emaciated much. Three weeks since [I] put him on the use of Cod-liver oil. He is now much improved. The thermometer has made a rapid change from being 70 degrees in the morning at sunrise on last week, to 12 degrees below freezing as it was on Saturday morning last.

November 7: Tuesday.

Practiced. No calls but one this day. Pleasant day. Paid Daniel Dewees \$300 & Andrew Miller \$200 borrowed four months ago.

November 8: Wednesday.

Practiced forenoon. Visited Gwynedd afternoon with Nancy. All well up there. Little Frannie very happy.

November 9: Thursday.

Awoke this morning with bad affrighted feelings. Last evening the children & their mother were talking of Sady who used to weigh the gold in the mint & give the last rasping to it. She resigned her post because of the dishonesty of some of the assistants in carrying away some of the filings, and the difficulty in knowing who it was. Well I dreamed that Robert Corson was in jail for having put into his pocket a small scale of copper knocked off of the edge of something which I do not now recollect. I thought from my room I could look down into his cell & see him, just after he was put in. I saw him throw himself despairingly on the seat. Then after a few moments, try to look through all the chinks & cracks by which light was admitted, then listen at those places, &c. It was most sad to me, and I awoke with this feeling upon me. It clings to me still as though it were the herald of something fearful.

November 10: Friday.

Practiced through the day. On Thursday and in the evening Mrs. C. & self went to hear Miss Lucy Stone discourse on Woman's Rights at the Odd-Fellows Hall. Today practiced and then went to hear Miss Stone. When about two thirds through, at 9 o'clock, there was a cry of "fire." Many rose at once to go. Someone jumped up & said it was probably a false alarm, but at that instant, the flame could be seen through one of the side windows. The audience was large but all passed out without confusion, although the fire was within a few feet of the Hall. Upon reaching the street, an immense blaze was seen, & it was apparently that my brother William's barn was wholly enveloped in flames. The fire companies worked manfully to the extinction of the fire in which they finally succeeded, a most fortunate circumstance, for it adjoined the large livery establishment of Jacob Bodey. On passing to William's garden to witness the destruction, I found a crowd around his fine grey horse, burnt from head to tail. The poor fellow was a piteous spectacle. Two other fine horses of his lay dead in the stable. His fourth horse, his favorite old Sorrel, happened to be in the harness in front of the

office. Elias H. Corson had gone to the meeting and as usual put his horse in the yard. He was run out by the first concern, though the curtains were burnt off of the carriage. My own beast had been left standing in the street, [in] front of the office as the evening was very warm. And most fortunately, George's match ponies, which were always almost without exception, put in William's yard, were this time directed by George, who did not go to the meeting, to be put at Brown's, on account of the difficulty of backing them out of William's yard. The barn was utterly consumed before 10 o'clock.

November 11: Saturday.

Went to see Wm. in the morning. Came home at 11 A.M. Attended a case of midwifery at Conshohocken at 12. Removed a tumor from Mrs. Stemple's head at 3 P.M. Practiced till 8 P.M. Very rainy day.

November 12: Sunday.

Practiced nearly all day.

November 13: Monday.

Practiced much. Have an epidemic jaundice prevailing at present.

November 14: Tuesday.

Practiced much. Excised tonsils for Miss Hartman. D. L. Wood paid me 100 dollars, a first payment on my lots next his house. I paid N. Rapine \$302.37 principal & interest that I owed him. I owe him \$100 principal yet. Family well. Joseph better of jaundice & whooping cough improving with them all.

November 15: Wednesday.

Up at 6 A.M. Had a fine nights rest. Always sleep well, unless much occupied by some exciting subject. Went to Philad. by private conveyance with Mrs. Corson. She drew her half yearly dividends at the Kensington & Philad. banks, \$47. Bought myself and Edward coats, &c. I attended the surgical clinics at University and Pa. College. Arrived home at 6 ½ P.M.

November 16: Thursday.

Slept finely last night. Up at 6. Practiced all day.

November 17: Friday.

Up at six. Fine nights rest.

November 18: Saturday.

Practiced until 9, then went to Trappe to med. convention. Pleasant time. Practiced until bed-time. Man badly injured in head by a fall & several other cases while I was away.

The British and French are bombarding Sevastopol. The besieged Russians are holding out with determination & making occasional successful sorties.

November 19: Sunday.

Robt. Rodgers' son John, a student of med. at the University, came here with Edward last night to stay till Monday morning. He seems a fine young man. I was much pleased to see him. His father and I were very intimate while at lectures. I took him to board with me at Woglom's the 2<sup>nd</sup> winter. Young Rodgers & I rode together all this forenoon.

November 22: Wednesday.

Have practiced the last 3 days very steadily. Had a consultation with Dr. Jno. L. Foulke, in Jane Scott's case last Monday morning. I am in very good health now.

November 29: Wednesday.

Several large failures have occurred since this day last week, which have produced much distress among our people. Reeses Buck & Co. have gone. These were the largest operations in iron perhaps in the state. Their indebtedness is 1 ½ million. Their property is said to be more than sufficient to pay.

Samuel & Washington Jacoby, "marble men," also stopped payment yesterday. Confidence is fast being destroyed. Business men have been extending until they have become entirely too much involved. Extravagance is ruining thousands.

December 25: Monday.

Christmas morning. Fine morning. All well. December has been very cold thus far. Two weeks since there was a very drifted snow, which has continued on the ground. Saturday last there was a sleet. Yesterday morning every tree was hung with icicles & walking almost impossible, but it thawed much through the day. This morning it is frozen again. The children are all at home but Franny. She is living at her grandmother's at Gwynedd. Edward & Joseph came up from the city on Saturday evening & will remain until Tuesday morning.

Last Saturday week, I was present with several others at an operation by Dr. Washington Atlee<sup>xliv</sup> on Dorothy, a maiden lady of about 45 years of age, for the removal of an ovarian tumor. He had drawn off 14 pints of fluid about 10 days before and today he took off two more. There were no adhesions. The sac was removed, and the patient has done very well since. I do hope very much she will get well as I was consulted in a case on Saturday last, and the patient will not likely have anything done unless this Dorothy succeeds in getting along. There is to be a meeting of the friends of Temperance in Norristown today in which measures are to be adopted for executing laws against men who are selling liquor in defiance of the laws. I shall go up. The boys and girls will go to Gwynedd.

December 26: Tuesday.

Attended the meeting yesterday.

## 1855

January 1: Monday.

Snow on the ground for three weeks past, but no sleighing more than a day or

two. This is a beautiful morning. Joseph & Edward came from Philad. on Saturday to spend yesterday with us. Joseph left here for town again this morning, but as there are no lectures at the Medical College today, Edward will not go down until evening. Practiced much today and warned out many of my tenants. I have 14 of them. Edward went down in the car. (It is now 10 P.M.). Bertha & Mary have been poorly today with a renewal of the whooping cough.

January 6: Saturday.

Weather has been very mild all this week, quite like spring. Several interesting cases of disease on hand. Have practiced much since Monday.

January 8: Monday.

Daylight. Edward & Joseph have left for the city. They have been up since Saturday evening. They enjoy themselves much in those weekly visits, and they are very pleasant to us. Weather was as mild yesterday as the middle of April. It did not freeze last night.

January 15: Monday.

Weather mild during the last 7 days.

January 16: Tuesday.

Pollock<sup>xlv</sup> inaugurated today as governor of the state. Very busy in practice all along.

January 17: Wednesday.

A spring day. Practiced much. Have 4 men digging on by the day, 5 men digging by the ton, 4 men digging stone by the perch. I get \$2.50 per ton for the ore at the Conshohocken Furnace. It costs 50cts. to have it hauled. What is dug by the ton costs me 87 ½ cts. per ton for digging, and 50 cts. for hauling, so that I have \$1.12 per ton clear profit. The stones cost me 25 cts. per perch for digging and get sixty cents per perch on the ground, having therefore 35 cts. per perch clear profit.

January 18: Thursday.

Warm, beautiful, dry as I crossed the Schuylkill at Spring Mill with Osborne Conard, who introduced me to two persons with him, Mr. Shefferdecker,<sup>xlvi</sup> the hydropathic doctor, and a young man under his care. Dr. Shefferdecker is about to take the Old Spring Mill Tavern for a hydropathic establishment. He has purchased from Geo. Culp the spring on top of the hill, along the road, for \$500. He can conduct the water all over the house.

I have pasted here the beautiful poem by Thomas Buchanan Read, a first cousin to my brother-in-law, Thomas Read. This young man possesses rare genius. He is a fine painter and ranks high as a poet.

**Editor's note:** It can be clearly seen where the poem was pasted into the diary. Unfortunately it is missing from the diary.



January 27: Saturday.

Attended the Medical Society meeting of our county at Norristown. Had a pleasant time. In the evening Robt. Corson took Miss Rebecca Foulke & Caroline & I think, Nancy up to Norristown to hear Miss Greenfield, commonly called the Black Swan Sing[er]. She sung very well, all say. She is a large black woman and has for several years sung in the chief towns of the Northern states and made a tour through England, singing before the most fashionable audience and gotten up under the patronage of Lords, Dukes, Duchesses, &c. She was aided last evening by a pianist & a violinist. Powell Child's wife is to be buried tomorrow. I wrote an obituary for her this evening.

February 5: Monday.

Intensely cold. Some snow on the ground.

February 6: Tuesday.

Thermometer at 3 degrees at sunrise, at 5 degrees at 1 P.M., at 2 degrees at sunset.

February 7: Wednesday.

At 1 degree below zero at sunrise. Beginning to snow.

February 8: Thursday.

Snowed all day yesterday & all night. Thermometer at 15 degrees this morning, snow about 8 inches, a sheet [of ice] on top, and still sleeting. Practiced much this cold weather.

Follen & myself started to go a long trip this morning; had an old York-wagon-top on runners upset, broke the top, and if the beast had not been very quiet, I surely would have been much hurt, as I was fast under the top, which lay upon my legs almost to my body. I ought here to mention an escape that I made about a week ago. I was standing at an iron-ore-hole while the men were raising a large lump of ore by a windless. When they had raised it to the top, I stepped back about 2 feet, to get a plank to put under it, when my foot, as I made the second step, seemed to step into a hole. I looked behind to see what was the matter, and Lo! I was standing on the very brink of another hole about 8 ft. square & 50 ft. deep. Half a step more and I would have fallen on my head & shoulders a distance of 50 feet. I was horror stricken at the peril I had just escaped. This was at the quarry between Spr. Mill & Jeremiah Comfort on the road side.

April 1: Sunday.

Edward has returned from lectures and is aiding me in the practice. My nephew, Dr. Lewis Read, conceived a desire a month since, to enter the Russian Army as a surgeon. Last month when he was nearly ready to start, news arrived that "Nicholas The Czar of all the Russians" was deceased. He died after a very short illness. The siege of Sevastopol by the British & French had been going on for several months. The Battle of Eupatoria<sup>xlvii</sup> had just been fought & lost by the Russians, and it is supposed that the intense mental labour of the Emperor took his life. Notwithstanding the news of his death, Doctor Read persists in going and sailed from New York in the ship Herman for Bremen at noon on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of March. His friends in Norristown & elsewhere

manifested much warm feeling for him previous to his sailing, and three gentlemen accompanied him to N. York and saw him sail.

I have had a most laborious practice now for weeks. The news from the seat of war shows a dreadful destruction of men and horses. The Russians often repelled. Bombs are flying in all directions. Disease, exposure, bullets and all other means of destruction combine to destroy life. Dead men and horses lie scattered all over the region of strife.

April 8: Sunday.

Easter. The children & their mother all eating breakfast. Little Frannie is absent at Gwynedd and is quite sick, fever, sore mouth, &c. All our small children have had it within a few weeks. Times are very pressing on the poor. Wheat is \$2.50, flour is \$12.00 per barrel, potatoes \$1.50, while wages are only \$1.00 per day for men in the iron ore & marble & lime stone quarries. I am much engaged daily. Yesterday had two consultations with Doctor Smith at Chestnut Hill in the case of Jno. Hildebrand's child, the other with Doctor Poley at Norristown in the case of Sheriff Boyer.

April 14: Saturday.

Have had a consultation with Dr. Smith every day this week and on Friday one also in the Sheriff's case, and one with William also, in Esq. Ramsay's case. My brother Wm. came near his death this week. While examining the body of Judge Evans, he made a slight puncture of his finger. This inflamed, swelled very much. Vomiting, pain in back, &c., came on. By opening finger, taking opium, &c., he was relieved. We have had quite a sick house this past week.

Nancy has been very sick with a violent infl[ammation] in the ear. It has been discharging bloody water & matter for several days. She has not been able to be up since last Sunday. Is still very poorly. Miss Rider also has been ill with erysipelas of the face & head since last Monday, but is now convalescent. I have done very [much] practice since the first of the month, & indeed a long time before.

The Liquor Law has passed & received the signature of the Governor. We have had a long & desperate struggle. On the first day of April the law goes into effect that shuts up all Taverns on Sunday, & now comes the Liquor Law, to go into effect on the first day of July. The rum selling is by it utterly prevented everywhere by the small. A few persons are to be licensed to sell it for medicinal, chemical & sacramental purposes.

May 27: Sunday.

Mrs. Corson is very sick today and it is now nearly five weeks that she has been almost entirely confined to her room, and much of the time to her bed. She was taken with a violent pain through the left eye, which was very severe for two days, then shifted to the left ear and side of the neck just below the ear. As she had suffered severely some years ago from neuralgia of that side of the face and head, she thought this was the same thing and so only took some anodynes to relieve it, but having had pains in the ear for two days, matter flowed freely from the ear with partial relief of the symptoms. It has continued to discharge ever since, and she has suffered so much from neuralgic pain as to compel her to resort often to "Incepticum." Her stomach is, even in health, so delicate

that she can scarcely take any medicine and in sickness it is worse. She is very sick today partly from taking medicine to obviate costiveness. She vomited much bile yesterday morning and this morning. But yesterday and today she has had much giddiness and swimming feeling in the head. I hope it will not prove to be anything very serious.

We heard from Doctr. Read, first at Bremen, which he left on 16<sup>th</sup> March, I think, then from Vienna about 29<sup>th</sup>, then from Warsaw, when he was about to start in an open wagon, without springs, a distance of about 1500 miles to the Crimea, in company with some young German doctors.

This month has been very healthy. It has been dry and cool. There has been no drizzly dull weather, but on the contrary, it has been very dry and bright and until the 16<sup>th</sup> it was very dry, then it rained copiously for one night, and again about 20<sup>th</sup> it rained bountifully. The wheat and rye promise nicely. The grass will be very light owing to the freezing out of the closer roots. It is interesting to see how anxious every man who has a plot of ground is to plant potatoes. Every man who has a load of manure solicits those who have land, to let them plant a patch and they manure it. This has been often done by farmers who consider the manure more than pays for the use of the ground.

October 1: Monday.

I have been in very good health this summer. It has been the healthiest season I have ever known. I concluded to change my teacher, so left Miss Rider go away and got Miss Emma Cook who began school Sep. 23. She teaches music in addition to the other branches.

October 18: Thursday.

Rec'd. a letter from Frank Barr, a stranger, who says Miss Cook has been married to him for several months, that she engaged to teach without his knowledge and that she will leave for Philad. on the 20<sup>th</sup> (Saturday).

October 20: Saturday.

I went to Philad. to have Dr. N. Norris to sound Chas. Styer for stone in bladder. Stop'd. with Miss Cook's mother. Miss Cook to stay another week with us.

October 23: Tuesday.

Robt. Corson came here today from St. Clair, where he is superintending the business of Mr. Chas. Lawton. Doctor Oberholtzer was also here to tea.

I put an advertisement for a teacher in the Ledger this week (yesterday) and today there were six applications. All profess to teach French and music in addition to the ordinary English branches.

Last Saturday brother William got a letter from Sevastopol from our nephew Doctor Lewis W. Read, who was in Sevastopol (south side) until within 2 hours of the fall of the town, and its conflagration on the 9<sup>th</sup> of Sep. He gives a description of the bombardment and the resistance. It was dreadful. Night and day it was a shower of fire, bombs and balls. They are now (the Russians with whom Doctor Read is surgeon) in North Sevastopol and fortified in the strongest manner. It was more than a year from the time "the allies" sat down before the city, before they were able to effect an entrance and,

by disease and battle the destruction of their forces was terrible. Doctor Read had thought of coming home in Sep, but they have behaved so well towards him, that he has agreed for 6 months more. When they paid him in Sep, they gave him in addition to the salary 100 silver Rubles as a present.

Passmore Williamson<sup>xlvi</sup> was thrown into the Moyamensing (Philadelphia County) prison for an aperted Contempt of Court by Judge Kane. He has been there about 3 months. A man by the name of Wheeler, Minister to Nicaragua, brought to Philadelphia with him a woman slave and two sons. Passmore went on board the steamboat which was just about to leave for [New] York and told the woman that she and her sons were free and ask her to walk off the boat, which they did and got into a carriage and went off. Wheeler took out for the District Court of the U.S. to make Passmore Williamson bring the bodies of the woman and boys before Judge Kane. To this writ Passmore responded saying that he never had them in possession and this was construed into contempt and he was sent to jail for contempt and has been there three months. There has been much excitement produced by it among the people. Execrations have been heaped upon Judge Kane, but he is still inexorable, and Williamson will not apologize.

Doctor Kane, son of the Judge, returned last week with Capt. Hortensteine who had been sent to this Northern Sea in search of him. He had been away two years, and had undergone incredible hardships.

October 24: Wednesday.

Has been very rainy for two days. Went this afternoon, Mrs. C. and myself, to see Miss Emma Southwich, who desires to be a teacher for us. We are delighted with her. She is proper age (30 or more), lively, intelligent and not pedantic. We left Mr. McKim's at 8 P.M. and had a very disagreeable ride home.

October 25: Thursday.

Practiced much. Went to Philadelphia at 9 A.M. to see several applicants for teacher for our school. Walked nearly 70 squares this day and practiced much after I returned in the 3 o'clock car.

I met with quite an adventure. I went to the corner of South and George Streets to No. 84, which proved to be a liquor store. While there the keeper gave a pint of liquor to a poor half starved little girl of 8 or 9 years. I spoke to him of his violation of Law, and he instantly set at me to curse, threaten me, to shake his fists at me and call all kinds of opprobrious epithets, following me on the street. I could find no police officer and therefore came back to make further inquiry after the person whom I sought, when he saw me again and made a violent demonstration of violence, but still did not really strike me. I heard he lost no time to taking back the whiskey and returning the money to the little girl. But for the trouble of going to Philadelphia to attend his prosecution, he richly deserved to suffer the penalty of his violation of Law. It is very dangerous to incur the displeasure of such men, and particularly in such a street. It was really reckless in me to return to look for the teacher. I went directly up to Edward's room and sat down to write an account of the affair to the Mayor, when the girl who applied as a teacher came in. She had heard the man make the noise in the street, and heard him tell another person

about it, when she saw at once that it was the person who was looking for a teacher who was the object of the rum seller's hate, and lost no time coming up after me.

October 26: Friday.

Out in the middle of the night to attend a birth. Made much ice last night. Practiced all day. Miss Cook, our teacher, was clandestinely married to Frank Barr. (I think since she came here to live). She says last spring, and today she leaves us. Nancy went to Philadelphia today to buy many things we need. Took with her \$77 which she thinks not enough for all she wants. She, Edward, Caroline and Joseph will all come up tomorrow evening, if all is well.

Yesterday at 11 o'clock while at the anti-slavery office, Mr. McKim introduced me to Jimmy Bowlegs, nephew to the celebrated Seminole Indian, Billy Bowlegs, who has given the U.S. Government so much trouble to get him away from Florida. Jim is part Indian and part Negro, a remarkably fine stout man, with a broad well developed head, and a most philosophic mind. He narrated some of the events of his escape from Alabama, as well as the means which he used to support himself in his dreary Journey of thousands of miles, always traveling by night and sleeping, cooking his food, &c. in the woods in the day-time. He started in April and has just arrived here. At first he lived on dry corn, packed by himself, by striking a fire with a flint stone and his old knife, and igniting some charred cotton which he always carried. He would then set twigs and bark on fire and when he had some coals, would drop the corn upon them, rake them out and eat them. Always made a brisk fire so that it would not smoke much, and never made it till the sun shone brightly, for then the smoke could not be seen above the tree tops. In the early morning it would be very unsafe as the smoke would be seen. Carried a little bottle of turpentine and asafetida to rub on his hands and feet, so as to throw the hounds off the track, if they came after him. As the summer advanced, he ate blackberries, other fruits, roasting ears, &c., &c. A fruit called muscadine abounds in Tennessee and gave him much good food. He says it is not a grape but resembles it, though is much larger.

October 29: Monday.

It is a remarkably healthy season. I never have had so easy a time in practice. Yesterday (Sunday) wife and self went to Gwynedd with W. Wills and wife. Went from there with John Foulke and C. Bacon and E. F. Corson to see the tunnel they were making for the North Pa. Rail Road. Got home at 9 o'clock P.M.

December 16: Sunday.

How rapidly time flies! A month and a half have gone since my last entry, and it seems but a fortnight. Last Monday brother William received a letter from our nephew Dr. Lewis Read, dated Simpheropol, Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>, in which is announced the mournful intelligence of the death of Doctor Charles Denninger (formerly of Reading, Pa.), one of the American surgeons at Simpheropol, also the death of Dr. Jones of Maryland, also at Simpheropol. They both died in the same day of cholera. Our son Edward also received a letter from Dr. Read, the same day as uncle William. The face part of the letter begins under a crayon sketch of the heights of Balaklava and is dated Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>. There comes "N.B. (Oct.25). I dated my letter abruptly yesterday for the purpose

of going to Alusta. This morning a messenger arrived desiring me to return as one of my friends, Dr. Jones of Maryland, had died of cholera during the night, and Dr. Denninger was very ill; I returned post haste, but poor Charley had breathed his last. I will write to the family but for fear it might miscarry, be kind enough to write to General George McKeim of Reading and oblige yours, &c.” Lewis W. Read.

Doctor Denninger was an intimate friend of Edward and Doctor Ramsey at the medical lectures and after he graduated last spring, he and Doctor Ramsey came here and took dinner with us. Doctor John P. Heister of Reading died in the year 1854 and left his library to Dr. D., and last spring he went and took his office and began practice. In May he got the desire to go to the Crimea and sailed on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of July. In a letter written to his friends after he arrived at Sevastopol he speaks of the hearty welcome he received from Doctor Read. Then we heard no more from him until last Monday Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> when the letter announcing his death, on the 26<sup>th</sup> of Oct., arrived.

Lewis states that there are hospitals enough in Simpheropol to receive 20,000 wounded, as the wholesale slaughter has ceased since the attack on Sevastopol. Many hospitals are now empty.

Thus far the season has been very fine and mild. Last Thursday week, brother William and Lloyd Jones, both bachelors, gave a party to their friends, or to use the language of the cards, “rec’d. their friends at Meeh’s saloon,” in Norristown. It was an immense room, beautiful carpeted, and splendidly illuminated. We were there, Mrs. Corson, Mrs. Cresson, James Cresson and myself, and about 150 others and had a pleasant time until 11 ½ P. All left at 12. We have also been at a little party of friends of Mr. Clarke Wharton’s (where Jesse Spencer used to live), and last week to Jesse Foulke’s to tea with some company.

December 25: Tuesday.

Christmas. A happy day we have of it. All well and all the children at home. Edward is home from the medical college, Joseph from the drug store, and Caroline from school.

The year 1855 has been the healthiest one I have almost ever known since I began to practice medicine. It was so from beginning till end. No epidemics.

## 1856

January 1: Tuesday.

New Years day. All the children at home but Joseph who did not come home, but John Rodgers, son of my friend Doctor Robt. Rodgers of Springfield, Ohio, came up with Edward in the morning car, from lectures, and staid until 9 o’clock next morning. In the evening of Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> we had all the “auntys” (as the children call Susan, Becky, Hannah and Emily Foulke), teacher Southwich and her friend Miss Phillips. Alan Read, Dr. Ramsey and Jesse Foulke here to tea and opened the evening; dancing, singing, playing on piano, &c., were the exercises.

Longfellow, the poet, has published a poem called “The Songs of Hiawatha,” which I have just read with much pleasure. It is a peculiar style and much criticized. But to me it is most charming. I am busily engaged in practice daily. My practice was

worth the last year a little over \$2,700, pretty well considering how very healthy the last years have been.

Talking with Edward one morning just as he was about to start to the city, I said to him (as the thought came upon me) some one should write an obituary for Dr. Denninger. I thought either he or Dr. Ramsey should do it, as they were his intimate friends. But as he had to go to the cars, I sat down and wrote this, which is pasted here, and sent it by mail to brother William and Dr. Ramsey saying to them that they might use their discretion about it. Deeming it appropriate, they concluded to add to it the initials R and C for Ramsey and Corson, and sent it to the press. I believe it is truthful and expresses their sentiments. Poor Denninger! I saw a letter from him to my nephew Alan Read written but a few days before his death by which he seems in fine spirits and in good health and now gone forever from us.

There is much truth and beauty in these verses which I have cut from a newspaper, that I have concluded to paste them in here this evening. [Corson refers to two anonymously published poems titled "Man's Love" and Woman's Love"].

January 5: Saturday.

All the family gone to bed. Jane "Ann," who has lived with us and been a most valuable servant for about 15 years, I hear her knocking about in the cellar below me. We have a man too, Isaac Shaw, who has been with us about 15 years. It is well to have those whom we can trust about the house. Rose Smith, our other girl, has been with us three years.

January 6: Sunday.

A great storm of snow yesterday. Fine sleighing this morning. Up early. Follen and self making roads through the great drifts. Mr. Hildeburn taken with palsy yester morning. I engaged to see Dr. Smith with him this morning at 8 A.M. Could not reach there through the drifts before 10 A.M. Resolved on a close watch over myself this present year, so that I may feel at the end of the year that I have so treated every one as to have nothing to regret in that way.

Charles Bacon has just come here with Jesse and Becky Foulke from Gwynedd. Tomorrow he expects to start to Boston where he is to conduct business for Bacon, Price and Co. Joseph did not get up in the cars today, as they could not make way until noon. It is the first time he has staid in Philadelphia over Sunday, and I suspect it will be a real cross to him for he is so fond of sleighing in addition to his fondness for home on Sunday. Edward came up last night and has had a fine time sleighing today. All the children have been out this afternoon, Cassie with Cresson's young folks, and our others by themselves.

January 9: Wednesday.

This morning will be memorable in the annals of frost. Last night at 10 o'clock, the thermometer was at 10 degrees above zero. This morning at sunrise it was 10 degrees below zero. At nine o'clock the sun was shining partially on the thermometer and it was 3 degrees below; at 12 the sun just being entirely off it, it was 3 degrees above zero. Last night when we went to bed, little Bertha who was in my bed was in a severe chill, although there was a good fire in the room. It was as severe a chill for half an hour

as I ever saw. She complained also of pain in left shoulder, just below the joint. In about an hour she became very hot and thirsty, had a little cough, urinated twice through the night, and vomited once; slept occasionally but was wandering in her sleep, pulse very frequent. At 8 A.M. I examined lungs and found right one with imperfect resp[irations], with considerable Rhonchus; had also pain then on coughing, pulse very frequent, skin hot. Bled oz. vii, Cal. gr. v 12 noon, in profuse perspiration, has coughed but very little, pulse 142, respiration 44, sleeps for a short time and then wakes up and does not seem able for a time to get rid of her dream.

6 P.M. Very cold. No wind. Thermometer 5 degrees below zero. No sickness prevailing.

January 10: Thursday.

7 A.M. Thermometer 4 degrees below zero. Windy. Snow drifting somewhat, but the crust is so hard that it can't do much at it. I rode several miles between one and two o'clock last night to attend an obstetric. Got back before 4 A.M.

Bertha was taken very ill on Wednesday night about 10 o'clock, a violent chill followed by fever, delirium, pain in the right breast. Yesterday bled her (pulse at 144). Gave Cal. purge and [it] operated in evening. [Is] better. This morning quite relieved. Franny quite sick yesterday afternoon, and last evening as we went to bed their mother was suddenly taken with pain in the side. Took ½ gr. morph. All better this morning.

January 13: Sunday.

Rained through the night. The roads are knee deep with water and snow.

January 14: Monday.

All froze up. The fields and roads are more deeply covered by ice than I have ever seen before.

January 27: Sunday.

It has scarcely thawed at all since the 14<sup>th</sup>. The sleighing has been superb. Snowing all this day.

January 28: Monday.

Snowed all this forenoon. The old ice and snow now covered several inches by a fine soft snow. Sleighing superb. Joseph came home last Thursday to sleigh. Had a fine time collecting money. Carry came on Friday, Edward on Saturday. It is pleasant getting round in my practice.

February 4: Monday.

Another inch has passed and oh! what a cold one. Sleighing has been delightful and the thermometer almost every night down to below zero, Saturday night 2 degrees below, Sunday night 2 degrees below, this morning 4 degrees above. In the day time yesterday it went up to 15 degrees at noon. There is not a bare spot on the ground, and many of the roads are drifted full, but the roads in the field are fine. Last Friday Nancy and self, Jesse Foulke and Hannah and Emily went to Thos. Wistar's to dinner. Got home at dark. Went to Mr. Hildeburn's in consultation with Dr. Smith. Cold!



Intensely cold! The boys and girls had a fine time sleighing round on Sunday. Bob Corson and Charley Bacon were here. Rumours of a disposition on the part of Russia to peace, and great fear on the part of the peaceful in this country that we are on the eve of a war with England, in relation to the Central American affairs. Edward had his examinations by Professor Carson yesterday at 2 o'clock at least such was the appointment.

February 10: Sunday.

News. Peace between the Allies and Russia. Cold weather continuing.

February 13: Wednesday.

Two days since the weather moderated a little so that light snow which fell on the 6<sup>th</sup> to the thickness of about 2 inches (and which had drifted into the roads completely blocking up many that had been opened), began to melt, and the water stood in many places in the road. Yesterday morning it began again to blow from the N. west, and by evening at 8 o'clock the thermometer was at 7 degrees above zero. It was hard to ride against the wind. I have not suffered more in riding this winter than yesterday towards evening. The wind was so strong and cold. The sleighing has been fine now for six weeks and three days.

Edward has finished his examination. Professor Jackson has examined him on last Sunday night. He was to have done it on Saturday evening. Edward was there but he could not do it, he said, so put him off to Sunday night. He thinks he will have every vote. Peace prospects increasing in Europe. Our misunderstanding with England clearing away. 8 P.M. Intensely cold. Thermometer now at 6 above zero, cloudy. Looks like snow. Bertha has been sick since Sunday evening with what seemed mumps of one side. Better last evening and came downstairs. This morning at 10 taken with a chill, headache and fever followed, and was very high all the afternoon. At 7 P.M. I came home bled her a few ounces, Dig. Tinct. qttts vi: spt. Nit. qttts xii, applied a heating liniment to neck for a few minutes.

February 14: Thursday

Last night was intensely cold. This morning before sunrise thermometer at 4 degrees below zero. The roads are hard as the frozen snow can make them. Sleighing fine. We are now quite used to the cold.

February 15: Friday.

Cloudy morning. Cars from the south heard readily for miles. Thermometer 13 degrees above. All portend a coming thaw. I have nine men at the ore for some time.

February 16: Saturday.

Thawed a little yesterday in the roads favorably situated. Snowed a little about 8 P.M. I spent a miserable night. Bertha was quite sick and restless. Mary very restless and their mother has been very sick and unable to be up since yesterday morning. I had to be up with Bertha very often. It is seven weeks this day since I began to go in the sleigh, and have rode steadily since, so that I have had great exposure and am now very stiff.

February 17: Sunday.

Been melting rapidly all day. Water running freely. Evening. 22 degrees above. Ice everywhere again. Sleighing fine. Edward at home. Received notice of having passed the examination successfully, on Thursday last. The examination took place the week before, but Professor Jackson who was to have examined him on Saturday night the 10<sup>th</sup> disappointed him and requested him to come on Sunday evening, so that he was examined by him on Sunday last at 7 ½ P.M. On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>, Doctor Thos. Corson of Trenton, son of my preceptor Dr. Richard D. Corson of New Hope, Pa., was married to Miss Mary Steven, daughter of George Steven of Philadelphia. Edward, Robert, Auntys, &c., were at the wedding, then went to New Hope where they had a very large party at Doctor Foulke's on Wednesday night. On Thursday morning Edward returned, and then received his "notice." His examination was a premature one, the first this season. He passed with much credit. He now intends to attend the rest of the lectures and devote himself to examining and preparing his friend, John Rodgers, son of my friend Doct. Robt. Rodgers of Springfield, Ohio, who was my room mate and graduated with me in 1828. 9 A.M. Therm. 26 degrees above, blowing and drifting fiercely. Noon. Blowing violently. Therm. at 20 degrees above.

February 18: Monday.

Sunrise, 8 degrees above, a piercing wind. To the traveler a bitter day. Sunset, 16 degrees above.

February 19: Tuesday.

Sunrise 8 degrees above, a cold biting air. Edward Livezey came here yesterday as a student of medicine.

February 23: Saturday.

Still fine sleighing, though the weather has much moderated. Water running freely for two days in the warm part of the day, freezing a little at night. Just 8 weeks since the sleighing began. In 1836 we had sleighing for 10 weeks and 2 days, but not so uniformly good; there were many thaws and frequent snows. This has been one almost uninterrupted and intense cold for 8 weeks. The snow and ice are softening and gradually thinning.

February 27: Wednesday.

Sleighing pretty much done here where the hauling is so heavy, but above Sandy Hill and across the country you cannot well travel with a wagon. The roads are not yet opened. It hardly freezes at night and yet is not so warm as to make the water run much in the day time. Snow and ice going away gradually, so as to allow us to hope, we will have no freshet.

**Editor's note:** At this point in the diary is pasted a newspaper clipping detailing "Norristown Market Prices" for the month of February. Just below that, Dr. Corson added, "By middle of March, corn got down to 55-60 cts. per bushel."

March 3: Monday.

Still in the sleigh. There has been a little snow to the water frozen up again. I have been sleighing all along, except a few trips in the region of Spring Mill and Conshohocken, where the snow is quite bare. It thaws so little in the day time that the roads have scarcely lost any of their drifts. From here to Gwynedd we have to travel mainly in the fields.

March 9: Sunday.

Thermometer at 12 degrees. Very cold all day. Edward has by advice of his Philadelphia friends been trying for the office of Physician of Eastern Penitentiary. We expect him up today. The election took place yesterday evening. He has some good recommendations as a young man can get, from Doctors Norris, Fox, Jackson and Condie.

10 A.M. Edward came up and he did not succeed. Doctr. Neubold got it. He has practiced three years, made application early, had certificates of all the professors and above all, had a mother dependent on him for support, they say.

Sunset, Joseph and I went to Gwynedd through a snow canal nearly the whole way. Therm. at 10 degrees. Evening intensely piercing. Sleighs running up there.

March 10: Monday.

Joseph and Caroline off to city. No sleighs here at all. Turnpike in some places dusty, but the roads across the country, nearly all the roads which have not been shoveled, are impassable. Where they have cut through the drifts and thrown it on the sides, the snow is nearly as high as the carriage top. I have not gone in the sleigh since the third of the month.

March 11: Tuesday.

We are taking out ore rapidly, 9 men. We sent 60 tons last week, and dug it. Yesterday Edward began to practice with me.

March 18: Tuesday.

Snow still blocking up some roads. No sleighing about here, and the weather moderates in the middle of the day. Last night a fall of snow 3 inches deep.

March 23: Sunday.

The last snow is gone, and the old drifts are melting, but some roads have not yet been opened, others have been shoveled and the ground has gotten so soft, the people are fixing up the fences to keep the people from going into them. A great deal of snow to be seen yet. Country is white with it in all northern places and along fences and in roads. Roads perfectly horrible from mud.

Peace Conference progressing favorably. Kansas Free State people are triumphant so far that they have succeeded in having a committee appointed by Congress to send for persons and papers to investigate Reeder's right to the seat to which Whitfield, the Border Ruffian delegate, was admitted.

The Anti-Slavery Soilers have stood by their cause nobly this winter at Washington.

March 29: Saturday.

University Medical Commencement today. Edward received his diploma. Self, mother, Caroline, Tacy and Joseph present.

April 1: Tuesday.

Many snow drifts along the roads and fences, but the ground is generally bare and dry as there has been no rain this year.

April 12: Saturday.

Snow gone almost entirely. There is not I think a speck to be seen in our roads about here. At noon yesterday, McAllister's thermometer was at 75 degrees at 3 P.M., 61 degrees at 6 ½ P.M., 54 degrees today. It seems to me warmer than yesterday but I did not examine the thermometer. People busy preparing oats-ground. No rain this year. Many cisterns entirely dry.

I have six men at the ore, and they are getting it out rapidly.

Just twenty-eight years (a few days over) elapsed from the time I graduated until my son Edward received a diploma from the same college. Doctor Robert Rodgers who graduated with me also had a son to graduate with Edward.

April 29: Tuesday.

Peace between the Allied Powers and Russia is confirmed. Mr. Buchanan, our Minister to England, arrived in the U. States a few days since and is received everywhere with great applause for having managed our difficulties with England so well. Doctor Lewis Read, our nephew, was in Rome when he last wrote. He is having a fine time of it. Edward is preparing quietly to go to Conshohocken to practice.

Yesterday the thermometer at noon was 90 degrees. About 2 weeks ago we got rid of Abby Southwick as a teacher and got a Miss Brewster. Miss Laura Brewster from Bradford, Massachusetts, the daughter of a man who one year ago was a wealthy merchant, she is a most excellent teacher, I think.

May 1: Thursday.

Earned \$200 by the ore last month.

May 7: Wednesday.

(Writing with a goose quill). A day or two since Edward went to Conshohocken to look for Board and an office, having a disposition after much consultation among ourselves to go to that place and start practice. His mother is not pleased with it, and now that he has moved in it, I am not well satisfied myself, although I originally proposed it. Our reasoning was that he could get some practice there and could help me, and that if it were desirable for him to take my practice in a few years, he could do it as well as though he had practiced with me. Now I am not so well satisfied that it will pay well, because it will cost him at least \$400 annually besides his clothes and the wear and tear of horse and carriage. It worries me exceedingly. I have dreamed about it continually for two nights. It has always been so with me, whatever annoys me in the

day-time, worries me in my sleep. I also feel concerned about my own health, if I should be much driven. William, I am sure is suffering much from Irritation of the Lung.

June 1: Sunday.

Last week I attended the Medical Convention of the State, at Philadelphia. It held three days. On Friday, the last day, we had a festival at the Lazaretta. There were nearly one hundred of us, went down by steamboat, at 3 P.M., had a splendid entertainment, and arrived in the city at 10 P.M. Caroline came home with me from the city. We reached home at midnight. Brother William also was down. Tomorrow morning Edward expects to go to Conshohocken to live. I do not know how he will do it, but he will do it.

There was a dreadful outrage committed on the person of Charles Sumner last week. Preston Brooks<sup>xlix</sup> of South Carolina, a Member of the House, after the Senate adjourned, came into the Senate Chamber and without notice to Mr. Sumner fell upon him with a leaded cane and struck him over the head as he was sitting at his desk, and then after he was senseless on the floor continued to beat him for a considerable time.

June 4: Wednesday.

Edward went to Conshohocken this evening to remain. It goes hard with us to part with him, and his mother is not at all agreed to it. She thinks it is not right, that he ought to stay and take a labor from off me. I can hardly make up my mind what is best. I think [per]haps we can enlarge our practice that way.

The Sumner outrage is producing great excitement. Indignation meetings are being called all over the Northern States in the principal cities. The Kansas difficulties<sup>1</sup> are thickening daily. Fights between the proslavery and antislavery men are of daily occurrence. The political parties of the United States are marshalling a severe contest for the Presidency.

June 15: Sunday.

All in bed but myself. Edward has been at Conshohocken since 4<sup>th</sup>, has had two obstetrical cases, one of them twins, and several minor cases. He is evidently destined to do well there and yet I do not feel like letting him stay. He and Bob Corson are both here at present. I think I will take Edward home to help me, and let him have an office in Conshohocken which he may visit every day, and if Doctor Read moves away from his present office perhaps he may take that and move there again. I feel much worn out and easily fatigued. I am digging iron ore now to great advantage. Month before last I cleared of all expenses above \$200, last month above \$300, and if the last half of this month proves as good as the past half, I shall clear more than \$500.

Doctor Lewis Read arrived at home from Russia first week in August. He left the Crimea about the beginning of this year, and since has traveled by land to Vienna, from there to Venice, then on through Italy, visiting Trieste, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Rome, &c., then by sea to Marseilles, then through Lyons to Paris, where he spent two months attending medical lectures, &c. He brought some presents from Rome and other places for his friends.

September 30: Tuesday.

Thomas Read, Lewis' father, my sister Sarah's husband, died this day. He has been ailing several months with a disease of the liver and lung.

October 15: Wednesday.

Yesterday was the State Election. It was a strongly contested race between the Republicans and Native Americans on one side and the Democrats on the other. The latter have carried the State by a few thousands, about 3000. This is great joy to the Democrats as they think it augurs well for the Presidential contest.

November 3: Monday.

Tomorrow will be the day of election for Presidential Electors. The Republicans under the banner of John C. Fremont, and with the cry of "no more slave territory," and "Freedom for Kansas" and the Old Line Whigs (what is left of the party) with Fillmore as their leader, and without any particular principle except subserviency to the slave powers, and the Democrats with the Cincinnati platform on which is seated James Buchanan, and which goes for Squatter Sovereignty and freedom for slavery, to travel where ever the people of the Territories wish it, even in defiance of the wishes of all the other States or territories. These three parties so armed with struggle for victory tomorrow.

November 8: Saturday.

The election is over and Buchanan is elected. The Republicans stood nobly by Fremont, and by the vote which they have given will deter the party in power from exercising their diabolical scheme of making Kansas a slave state. It is thought this popular vote is against Buchanan and with Fremont.

December 1: Monday.

Weather growing cold. Politicians quiet. Sickness has been very moderate this fall.

December 25: Thursday.

I have been for a week during this month in a very peculiar and unpleasant state, with an affection of the heart. I have often had violent palpitations, and an irregularity, or several quick sudden jerks when lying on my right side and often in winter-time when not lying, but this time it was different or if not, I found out that it was a pause of the heart's steady action that produced the jerking in my neck and breast. Sometimes it would 30 or 40 or 100 or more. If under excitement, or much engaged, perhaps hours would elapse. It was very troublesome on lying down. It has been for years that I could not lie on my right side without it. Turning to the left would stop it instantly. Now it occurs but little on the right side (not at all as it used to, that was a succession of short, quick jerks, like palpitations) and considerably on the left. I am now quite well of it. I think it was owing to some cold. There was an irritation of liver perhaps, as I had pain under my left shoulder and in left cardiac region, showing also real irritation of the heart. I was up at Mr. Wharton's to prescribe for Doctor John Drinker, and was then suffering from it. He told me that he had it at one time, also a friend of his named Fox. Fox was engaged in the laying out N. Pa. Rail Road when he had it, and became quite alarmed, but

it soon went off. This encouraged me much, and now feel very well. During the time I had it, I practiced a great deal.

Last Christmas the children were all at home. Now they are all here but Susan, Bertha and Franny who are spending the day at their uncle Charles Bacon's in Philadelphia. We are all well, and happy for it.

The North Pa. Rail Road Company sent to Edward and myself to get our bills for surgical attendance at the time of collision. We wrote that we had no charge, that we were happy to do it gratuitously. But I suggested to them that I would deem it a compliment, if the Company would present a free ticket to Robert Corson, son of my preceptor Dr. Richard D. Corson, who worked hard that day to relieve the sufferers. (This collision was the most dreadful one on record. It occurred on the 17<sup>th</sup> of last July at Camp Hill Station. After the engines struck each other, the cars rushed upon them, and were set on fire. 32 persons were burned to death and perfectly charred, and more than thirty more were killed and a great number wounded, losing limbs, &c). The Company presented me with a free ticket for myself and one for Robert R. Corson and presented Edward with a free ticket for himself and one for Charles L. Bacon, for whom Edward applied, as I did for Robert R. Corson.

## 1857

January 15: Thursday.

I have been suffering for a week again with the irregularity in the heart's action. It acts thus: After beating regularly for perhaps fifty beats, it will pause long enough for one, and sometimes think for two beats. As soon as the pause occurs, I feel a sudden jar or motion in my breast or in the lower part of the neck and slightly to the left side. No one feels anything of the heart's action while it is beating regularly, but the moment it stops, I feel a sudden jar or motion. For several years I have had an irregular action of the heart when I would lie down on my right side and it would be better, but not entirely relieved, when turning on my back, and completely relieved by turning on my left side. For several winters I have also suffered from disturbances of the heart in the day time, sometimes for two or three weeks at a time, but was not just like it is now. It was a sense of fullness occurring every few minutes in the hollow at the upper end of the sternum, and which at each time produced a very slight cough. It seemed too as if there was slight constriction of the upper part of the chest. I then thought this was like the irregularity which occurred while lying on the right side, namely a sudden pause then several quick pulsations, then a slow regular beating for a few times then a few palpitating beats, &c. Indeed I am not sure there was a pause. I think the sensation produced by a pause is very different from the palpitation. It seems to me that the sensation which I feel is produced by the sudden damming of the blood in the vena cava, when the heart ceases to contract. It seems quite fearful to have the heart thus to stop. It seems sometimes when I hold my finger on the radial artery and all action has ceased as if it might never go again. I ought to mention here that a little pleasant excitement seems to avert this irregularity for a time. Yesterday I had much of the feeling in my breast. I thought I would not be able to go much in my practice, but I had much to do and so started. After traveling to numerous places I made my way to Norristown, and at

4 o'clock started with my nephew Doctor Read to see my brother Charles' daughter Mary Frances, who was very ill. It was very cold and we returned to Norristown at 8 o'clock. Now although I had been much troubled by frequent intermissions of the heart's action before I got to Norristown, yet from the time I left there until I returned, I scarcely felt it a single time. It may be a more nervous disturbance. Otherwise I feel perfectly well. Our family is very small this week. "Mother" and Bertha are at Thomas Wistar's. Joseph, Follen and Edward are all away, though Edward is practicing much for me and is often here at meals with us.

Thermometer at zero this morning.

January 16: Friday.

Very cold, but I think 10 degrees above this morning. Am better of my heart affection today. Rode much.

January 17: Saturday.

Up to twenty by noon. Rode much. The heart pauses occasionally, but much better than I was.

January 18: Sunday.

Growing cold. At 2 P.M. began to snow from the east. Thermometer at 2 degrees above zero. The same at dark and snowing violently.

January 19: Monday.

Large snow drifts in all directions. Stormed horribly through the whole night. Wind more from the north. Thermometer, 2 degrees. Snowing and drifting violently. Noon. Thermometer at 5 degrees. Sun occasionally peeping out, but snow driving furiously. Roads blocked up. No traveling. Evening cleared off, but wind pretty high and drifting. I have not stirred out in practice today, and Edward who is here with me only visited one patient. Joseph could not get to the city. Follen could not get to Norristown to school, so we are all here at home enjoying ourselves finely, except mother and Bertha who are storm stayed, we suppose, at grandmother's on their way from Thomas Wistar's where they have been spending a few days. 10 P.M., Edward and the girls have gone to bed. Joseph is reading satirical poetry on one side of the table on which I write. I have been sitting about very much today, reading, taken no exercise and eating heartily, and I have my frequent pauses of the heart all the evening. It is quite unpleasant to have the heart stop so positively and completely as it does. As I hold my finger on the pulse, it pauses so long that it seems as though it would never move again, and I confess, there is a fear clinging to me that when I lie down, I may never rise again. I hope for the best. I would not like to leave my happy, cheerful family so soon, even if my services were not necessary to them. I will try the moderate inhalation of ether or Hoffman's anodyne<sup>li</sup> tonight. Twenty-four-years ago I used to have to inhale it every night before going to bed, if I had been reading a few hours previously, to avert the night mare, which it would always do. Relying on Providence to grant me life and health, I will still endeavor to perform my duty to my patients and to my family, as long as I can labor. I have my frequent pains through the breast and under the left shoulder, every day at times, and nearly always at night.



January 20: Tuesday.

5 A.M. Had to rise on account of severe pain under left shoulder blade. I have had the same kind of pain hundreds of times within the last thirty years, and I suppose I would have borne it 'till getting-up time, were it not that the intermission of the heart also troubled me, and I concluded to get up and take  $\frac{1}{4}$  gr. morphine. I then lay down again and in about 20 minutes the pain was relieved and I fell asleep. Rose at 8 A.M. Took five grains Calomel at 10  $\frac{1}{2}$  A.M. Went to Cresson's to see Cress. Bradford with Scarlatina. Sore throat, pulse 56 per minute and very regular and full, except when the pause occurs which is sometimes every minute, sometimes every  $\frac{1}{4}$  or  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour. My pulse has often during many years (it was thirty years ago) down as low as 54 in a minute. At those times I have generally had pain in shoulder, a yellow spot over my right eye, and other symptoms, indication of affected liver, a very prominent one of which was yellowness of skin. A cathartic would generally change my feelings. A few blue pills somewhat relieved me two or three weeks since. I hope the Cal. and some Senna Tea will do something for my relief today. It is now one P.M. and the Cal. has not yet purged. Edward, Joseph and Follen have started in the two horse sleigh, with Jimmy and Bill, to Gwynedd to bring their mother whom I am very anxious to have at home, for I feel that I need her here among the little children at night, and my intermittent pulse makes me fearful that I might be suddenly carried off..

3 P.M. Boys have returned. Could not get up to Gwynedd on account of the drifted state of the roads. Great disappointment to us all. Thermometer at 15 degrees.

January 21: Wednesday.

Thermometer 18 degrees in morning, 35 degrees at sunset. Joseph and Follen started in a one horse sleigh at 9 A.M. and brought their mother and Bertha at noon. Follen stayed at Gwynedd. Self and Edward went out in the two horse sleigh to practice. Water dropping slowly from some of the eaves at sunset.

January 22: Thursday.

Sunrise. 8 degrees. Wind from the north. Clear. Heart better.

January 23: Friday.

7 A.M. Thermometer 8 degrees below zero. Heart troubling me but little. Going out a great deal. Sunset, 1 degree above zero. Very calm. P.M., 5 degrees below zero. Very still.

January 24: Saturday.

7 A.M., 14 degrees below zero, the coldest day I have ever known. When I first looked out of the window towards the east, the mild azure look of the sky, the hazy appearance of the atmosphere, and the entire calmness of the atmosphere induced me to believe that it was quite a temperate morning. Last winter which we thought the coldest we ever felt was only 9 degrees below zero. My heart has scarcely troubled me at all since yesterday morning, and but very little since I took 5 grs. Cal. and followed it by Senna Tea on last Tuesday.

Cress Bradford has Scarlet Fever, and as it was getting better, followed by measles. My pulse this cold morning at sunrise is 56. All the children home last night but Edward, who was attending Mrs. Pheroah at Gwynedd.

January 26: Monday.

I feel well today. My pulse which for two or three weeks has been slow (54 to 60) is now 72 and on the least excitement more. Last Saturday I marked the thermometer at 14 degrees. At many places in the neighborhood it was more. On Sunday morning it was 8 degrees below. This morning it was 12 degrees below. During the day it became much more moderate. At 9 P.M. it was 22 degrees.

January 27: Tuesday.

Edward went to Conshohocken again last evening to stay; he has been with me a week and I can hardly bear to let him go. Our girl Rosey was married last Sunday evening to Thos. Fitzsimmons. Carry, Tacie, Susan, Izabella (Joseph's daughter) went with me in the sleigh to the Catholic Church at Conshohocken to see the wedding, but they did not come when expected, and we did not get to see it.

January 28: Wednesday.

Rained yesterday afternoon with the thermometer a few degrees above freezing.

February 18: Wednesday.

About a week since the cold weather disappeared and there has not been a moment's freezing since, and now the frost is out from the surface so that teams can scarcely haul. I have been much affected by the intermission in the pulsation of the heart, for a week past, and a few days since my feet slipped and I made a great effort to save myself from falling and succeeded, but with a severe sprain of the back, not at the small, but about opposite the 10<sup>th</sup> rib. Every morning about 4 o'clock I get awake with a pain in my back or under the shoulder blade and it becomes so sore, I cannot stay in bed. This morning it extended around from the back to the sternum by the margin of the ribs, so that I was in great pain, unable to make a single motion without aggravating the pain. At 5 was up, dressed and walking about to get relief, but was finally compelled to take  $\frac{1}{4}$  gr. morphine. Then at 6 was called out. Very difficult to ride. Pulse 58.

February 25: Wednesday.

Every night for a week I have been compelled to rise about 3 or 4 o'clock on account of the pain in my back, which entirely prevents my continuance in bed. Some nights I took morphine at bed-time, some only when the pain occurred, but the only thing which gives me relief is to get up and walk about and make use of arms, legs, &c., as well as I can.

February 27: Friday.

For two nights I have been called up, once before I got it. I was kept up till morning and have missed the pain altogether.

February 28: Saturday.

Dr. E. K. Kane, the great explorer, is dead. He died at Havana on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

March 9: Monday.

Great preparations are making in Philadelphia to receive the body of Doctor Kane. In Havana great honors were conferred on him, and so at New Orleans, and all the towns he passed on the Mississippi River and Ohio Rivers, Baltimore, Wilmington, &c., are preparing.

March 10: Tuesday.

I rose early this morning with a pain in my back, which I have been clear of for several nights. Since Rosey went away, I sent the Irishman, who has lived with us nearly a year, away to board, so that now as Joseph, Edward and Follen are away all the week, we are a small family and it so quiet and pleasant, that I think I will have no more hired people about save Isaac and Anna. It is clear and cold this morning and the ground covered with two inches snow which fell yesterday. Thermometer at 15 degrees at sunrise. My disease of the heart seems now to be quite relieved. As I sit here and write, it is just 72 and full and regular. When I think of the trials of Doctor Kane and how he bore them, I feel that I have really very little perseverance or fortitude. My resolutions are easily broken. I am tempted or driven from the line of duty by the merest trifle. I hope hereafter to be more constant in purpose, to resolve to do only what is right and having discovered what that is, to do it at all hazards. I hope when I make my next record, I need record no failures.

March 14: Saturday.

Attended the funeral of Doctor Kane on Thursday in Philadelphia. Mrs. Corson and myself went in the 7 o'clock train. There was an immense concourse. The military and civil societies were out in great numbers. The coffin was closed, so we did not get to see the body. He died at Havana on the 16<sup>th</sup> of February. The greatest manifestations of regard were made then, and at every city which it passed, until it reached Philadelphia. There the body was taken to Independence Hall, and next day, Thursday, it was buried with great ceremony at Laurel Hill. I hope I will be able to imitate his resolution and self-sacrifice. They can be reliable in the affairs of private life as in the stirring events through which he passed.

March 21: Saturday.

Lewis Lukens Jr., aged 18 nearly, was buried today. He was a patient of mine and died of Bright's disease<sup>lii</sup> after an illness of only a few weeks, and with little pain or suffering.

March 22: Sunday.

Son Joseph and myself started at 8 o'clock and went to Kulpsville, a distance of about 13 miles, consult with Doctor Moyer, in the case of Chalkley Styer's child. I also examined Mrs. Moyer and Mrs. Rozevelt for Dr. Moyer, both having uterine affections. Got back to Gwynedd at 3 P.M. and visited Doctor Drinker, whom I have been visiting

for nearly a week and who is quite ill with bronchitis, tubercles, &c. Home at sunset. Edward attending in my absence to the people here.

March 23: Monday.

Being very tired last night, I went to bed quite early, but with fears that I would have to suffer for it in the morning for I cannot remain in bed more than 6 hours without getting a violent neuralgic pain of the back about the 9<sup>th</sup> rib and extending to the cartilages of the ribs below the sternum on either side. I ached this morning at 2 o'clock with it and it was soon so severe that I had to rise and take ¼ gr. morphine, which just enabled me to lie till 5 o'clock in a good deal of pain. I then rose and walked about till six, then pain gradually wearing off. After breakfast it will gradually disappear and by 10 o'clock I will be free from it, and there will likely be no more of it till I have had about five hours sleep, when the whole thing will be repeated. I am now perfectly well of the heart affection that plague me so much in the winter.

March 24: Tuesday.

Was awakened by the pain in back and sides at 5 o'clock. (went to bed at eleven). Suffered with it till after breakfast. Doctor Drinker was better yesterday, and I told him I would not visit him today. I hoped to have an easy day, but last evening I received a letter from Dr. Moyer wishing me to meet him in consultation again today. It is a long ride and the morning quite rainy. It has thundered very sharply this morning. Charley Bacon, Mellson Rowland and Samuel Corson spent last evening here.

April 1: Wednesday.

My brother Joseph D. Corson died Monday evening at 11 o'clock of consumption. Died at Norristown where he has just lived one year.

April 2: Thursday.

Attended Joseph's funeral. He was buried at Montgomery Cemetery. Our mother died Oct. 1810, almost 47 years ago, leaving eight children. Our father has been dead about 23 years. This is the first death since that time. Several of us are now in feeble health. George, William, Mary and Sarah have much cough. I have no cough, but am troubled with an intermittent action of the heart which annoys me much at times, and is certainly very dangerous. Charles also complains of pain in breast. Alan is 66 years of age and quite healthy.

I am doing a great deal of practice, but Edward who lives at Conshohocken aids me very much.

April 4: Saturday.

Attended our county medical society and read a memoir of Doctor Gove Mitchell, which I had prepared. This is the first which has been prepared of any of our deceased members.

April 12: Sunday.

My nephew Elias Hicks Corson buried his little daughter Gertrude today. She died of Group after measles. I did not attend the funeral, but some of the children and

their mother did. In the forenoon I attended the funeral of old Solomon Corsey, an old colored man, who has long resided near to us. I am very sad at the death of Elias' child. They have now lost four children. Yesterday I was in Philadelphia and, accidentally meeting Doctor Gerhard, consulted him about my heart affection. From my statement, he supposed that it is a thickening of the valves of the heart.

April 26: Sunday.

Since this day week I have been very well of the affection of the heart, which has annoyed me so long. I have not had a trace of it scarcely. I have had no pain in my side or shoulder, have felt very buoyant and vigorous. So it seems to me I cannot have an organic disease of the heart, so much as a neuralgic or rheumatic condition.

During the last week two of my friends, William Hellings and Samuel Foulke came to their deaths very suddenly. The former by a bank at the quarry caving upon him. The latter by apoplexy, in a few hours. I was to see Doctor Drinker three times last week. I give him half a grain morphine a day and with great relief to his cough. Practiced very much last week. Edward went to N. Hope yesterday, so that I now have more to do than usual. This is a most delightful morning, and none of the children or their mother up yet. I always rise early, just about sunrise. Scarcely any of the workmen go to work now before six o'clock, while most of the mechanics do not go till 7 o'clock, and all quit at 6 P.M.

The grass is beginning to be quite green, and the birds sing sweetly every morning before sunrise.

May 15: Friday.

I went to Norristown this morning on some business, when my brother William took me up to his room and announced to me that he was a bankrupt, that everything he had in the value of nearly \$50,000 would be swept from him by the failure of "Corson, West & Kelly" iron foundry, for whom he had been endorsing for many years. Poor William! His heart was broken. He had begun to endorse for them when it was Thomas, Corson & Johnson, and having become liable to a few thousands, he was gradually led on to more and more, to save what was already at stake, so that he has been for years working under a heavy pressure which has worn down his spirit. It was with him when he lay down and when he rose. He has come to the conclusion to save every creditor that he has borrowed money of by giving them mortgages on his properties so that they shall come before the auditors of the firm. He has a desire to deed his residence to me, subject to mortgages to a little over \$10,000. It is sad indeed to see him impoverished at the age of 51, after a life of incessant toil.

May 16: Saturday.

I went to Norristown to receive the deed for William's house and lot. I received it from attorney James Boyd. The mortgages are all made out and will take precedence of another. I have a hope that we will be able in a few years to clear this property, if we are both healthy and able to attend to business. We will at least try our best. Brother Charles is also very deeply involved, so much so indeed that he has been compelled, in order to save his fine farm as a home, to secure his creditors by mortgages and then sell the farm to his son William. He has nothing else, so that if they can pay the interest on

the farm, they can live on it. I have almost as much money out on bonds and mortgages and notes as I owe. I am now determined to collect my money and pay off all my debts, and give up my guardianship so that I may not be liable to pressure.

I own about 80 lots in Norristown; 22 lots & 3 houses in Conshohocken; 7 lots & 3 houses in Sp. Mill; 4 lots, 2 on Hector & 2 on Elm in East Conshohocken; 1 house & lot on Conshohocken Turnpike; a house & lot at B[arren] Hill, formerly Geo. Lehman's; ½ of a house & 4 ½ acres of land in Plymouth Tsp. at Yerkesville; 1 house & 4 acres of land back of Norristown; 1 house & 15 ½ acres of land opposite to N. Dull's; my mansion & two tenant houses on the lot where I live; 8 acres of arm and iron ore land adjoining Joseph and Daniel Freas' land; 7 ½ acres of woodland, and a frame house in Lower Merion, below Conshohocken; 480 acres of land in Minnesota Territory. All this property is clear of everything, except the 15 ½ acres bought from Dull's estate. Mrs. Dull has a down in that of about \$1000.

I owe: N. Rapine & Son	\$1,700
S. Evans about	\$ 350
W. Lewis about	\$ 250
Ma--- [illeg.]	\$ 300
Sundry persons	\$ 300
Bank	\$ 500
Yerkes' children	\$1,000
Stillwagons	\$ 384
Stalegs about	<u>\$ 120</u>
	\$4,904 (cit.)

I have on bond owing from	
S. Jonston	\$ 200
W. Schlater, Jr.	\$ 200
A. Shaw	\$ 500
N. Gilinger	\$ 500
D. Ross	\$ 200
D. L.. Wood	\$ 300
Conshohocken Br.	\$ 116
Robt. Corson	\$1,150
Thos. Corson	\$ 250
Wm. Corson	\$ 500
Jno. Culp	<u>\$ 342</u>
	<u>\$4,258</u>

August 20: Thursday.

**Editor's note:** Immediately before the August 20, 1857, diary entry, Dr. Corson pasted this newspaper clipping:

“DEATH OF DR. THOMAS SPENCER: Dr. Thos. Spencer, a distinguished physician of Central New York, who has been residing in this city for several years past, died at his residence here on Saturday last. He occupied a professional chair in the Medical College of Geneva

for fifteen years; afterwards filled a professional chair in the Medical College of Chicago, and five years ago came to a professorship in the Philadelphia College of Medicine. In medicine, politics, or authorship he was equally at home. He officiated as surgeon in the American army. In Mexico during the war, was a member of the New York Legislature, and the author of an work on the "Chemistry of Animal Life," in which some original and striking views are presented.. He was the brother of Rev. Eliphalet M. Spencer, of Jamestown, N.Y.; Gen. Ichabod S. Spencer, of Canastota, N.Y.; Hon. Joshua A. Spencer, of Utica, N.Y., all of whom have recently been stricken down by death."

Dr. Corson then added these comments:

Doctor Spencer made my acquaintance at the meeting of the Medical Society in 1853. After the delivery of my address as President, and immediately on the adjournment of the meeting, Doctor Samuel Jackson of Northumberland came up to me and introduced Doctor Spencer who congratulated me on my address being one of mark and merit. It was indeed most gratifying to me to have two aged, venerable men of so much eminence to come forward and commend me for sentiments not approved by the Calomel and Alcohol lovers. Doctor Spencer afterwards came up by invitation and spent a few days with us. Our intimacy continued up till the time of his death.

I have been very well this summer. My heart has given me but little trouble. Indeed I have not so much palpitation when I lay down to sleep on my right side as I used to have. Pulse now at 6 A.M., 64. I have had a very pleasant practice this summer. Edward is still at Conshohocken and is doing pretty well for himself and much for me. He and Caroline had a pleasant little trip to Bethlehem, Mauch Chunk, Easton, &c., a couple of weeks since. There have been many very copious rains, so that everything is luxuriant and the country beautiful. Iron ore digging has been troublesome on account of the wet weather, and as I had some difficulty in selling mine on account of the quality not being very good, I quit digging two weeks since.

We have much cause to be thankful for so much health and comfort as we have had this summer. Our school has been vacant for about a month and as Miss Brewster has gone to her father's at Montreal, I have concluded to get another teacher. An advertisement which I put in the Public Ledger on Monday has been answered by several ladies, and I will go to Philadelphia as soon as breakfast is over to meet them.

December 19: Saturday.

It is too bad that I have written nothing since August. Very many things worthy of particular notice have happened since that time.

The Ohio Life & Trust Insurance Company got into difficulty and failing to considerable amounts. The sensation produced by it in New York and other great cities was one of fear that similar institutions might be as badly and fraudulently managed and that speculators in stocks and depositors of money were in danger. The Bank of Pennsylvania was suspected of insolvency and a run being made upon it, after paying specie one day, it closed its doors. This was the signal for a general rush on the other Philadelphia banks, which, after making a show of strength for a single day, without a single exception closed their doors and refused to pay specie for their notes. In a few

days the N. York banks all suspended and in about a week the suspension was general throughout the whole Union. Then among the merchants and extensive shippers, crash followed crash, until all confidence between men of business was at an end, and the whole nation was bankrupt. Never was there such a panic. Cotton mills, iron furnaces and foundries, rolling mills, rail roads, steam-engine manufacturers, every kind of business was suspended. So it is, or, at most, but few have resumed work. Hundreds of ore diggers and more than 100 teams have been thrown out of work in our region. Men stand around idly, or scarcely seek for work. One year ago \$1.12 - \$1.25 was the wages, now scores may be had for half the money. Numerous beneficial societies have been formed for relieving the poor during the coming severe weather. Fortunately the weather has been very mild thus far. There will be much suffering when the cold sets in. The fall has been healthy without a parallel. We have been all well. Joseph came of age about 3 weeks since. He has engaged to stay with his employers till spring for his board and expenses.

Mrs. Anna Wharton, wife of Mr. Clarke Wharton, an intimate friend of ours and one who[m] I attended much for a few years, died after a few days illness, after her confinement, in Philadelphia under the care of Professor Meigs. I had seen her about the last of October or first of November. She went to the city in about a week and a week after was a corpse. She was a pleasant woman and a kind friend. She left five children, the least perhaps seven years old.

Robt. R. Corson and Rebecca Foulke have also married. They are boarding in Philadelphia at \$6 each per week. I am much afraid they are living beyond their means, and attending poorly to business. After looking much for a teacher I engaged a Miss Margaret Craig, a young lady born on the ocean as her mother, the wife of a missionary to India, was on her voyage to that country, where they lived for seven years, and where the father died. She graduated at Ralston's school and has since taught in a "public school." She began school early in October. She, besides instructing in the school, gives lessons to Caroline, Tacy and Follen in French in our home 1 ½ hours daily. Salary reduced to \$20 per month; used to give \$25.

There is a complete prostration of business in Norristown. Samuel Aaron, Isaac Roberts, Phillip Gilinger, Robt. Iredell, Bodey, Jacob, and a host of other Speculators are pressed to the very utmost and through endorsing for Isaac Roberts others have been irreparably crippled.

It is a very difficult time to collect money and yet by close attention to it, I have collected more than ever before in one year.

December 31: Thursday.

All up early. Breakfast just over. Weather very rainy, warm. Thermometer, 38 degrees. It has been very mild weather this whole fall and winter, with the exception of a few days.

## 1858

January 11: Monday.

Since the coming in of the year, the weather has been almost like May, scarcely freezing even moist ground and that only a few of the nights. Today it has rained all



day. At sunset, thermometer at 60 degrees. Two sharp flashes of lightening took place just a[t] dusk, accompanied by thunder, and was followed by a heavy shower of rain. By seven o'clock P.M. the clouds began to break and stars to show themselves. At this time of year I was suffering from affection of heart, with severe neuralgia of lower part of chest. I have been clearer of it since last spring than for years before. Formerly I could not lie on my right side without producing palpitation and irregularity of heart. Now I can lie any way. Never knew a healthier time than the past few months. Collected from my practice last year \$3,393.25; rents and interest, &c., \$700; ground rent and bank dividends about \$200. Bank of Kensington and Bank of Philadelphia that used to give 6 per cent every 6 months, now only gives us since the suspension only 3 per cent for 6 months.

Edward collected about \$300.

January 14: Thursday.

Weather still beautiful. Mild almost as summer. Mother went to the city on 4<sup>th</sup> day morning (12<sup>th</sup>) to come back last evening. She did not come and the children are much distressed.

January 15: Friday.

Mother came home at noon; had written a letter to tell us she was not coming but [the] conductor forgot to leave it.

January 18: Monday.

This day last year the great snow began. Now it is very mild. Not a particle of frost on the ground.

January 25: Monday.

Like summer. Thermometer at 60 degrees in the shade at noon today. At sunset nearly as warm I think though I did not see the thermometer. Everyone I meet remarks, "did you ever see such weather?" It is a most providential thing that our winter is so mild. Last week there were 16 beggars [who] called upon us for food, money, and men are standing about idly at every corner. No work to do. Women and children going about begging the whole living for the family. Benevolent societies are constantly a work affording relief to the poor of the cities.

I received a letter from my friend Doctor Rodgers of Springfield, Ohio, this morning informing me that his daughter Frannie is in the city and wishes her to spend a little time with us. I immediately wrote to her, enclosing it to Joseph, who saw her and agreed upon the time of her visit and Caroline went down and came up with her Febr. 3<sup>rd</sup> [1858]. She staid but part of a day, and Edward returned to the city with her in the evening. She is a very pleasant young lady.

The weather was mild until the 10<sup>th</sup> of February, when it began to change, and by 12<sup>th</sup>, we took ice about 2 ¼ inches thick, by next day 3 ½, by Monday (15<sup>th</sup>) 4 on the ponds. Tuesday 16, Wednesday 17, Thursday, intensely cold. At 3 A.M. on 19<sup>th</sup>, it began to snow and continued it through the night with the thermometer at 12 degrees below freezing.

February 20: Saturday.

Seven A.M. Still snowing. Joseph's illness: I brought Joseph home from the city on 12<sup>th</sup> February, ill with an affection of the Lungs, a severe bronchitis. I bled him twice. Blood very inflammatory. Joseph looks very badly, is very weak, cough and pain in side. February 20<sup>th</sup>, has been up a few days.

March 6: Saturday.

Joseph has gotten pretty well, and I have been examining [him] almost daily for the past week, preparatory to his going before the Professors and Committee at 4 ½ P.M. He went to the city yesterday, so as to let John Savory also examine him.

March 7: Sunday.

Joseph was to come to Conshohocken in the 6 o'clock P.M. train last evening if he "got through" the examination. Follen went for Joseph, but he did not come in the cars, and we then waited up for him supposing he would come in the 11 P.M. train. Caroline and Follen were at Conshohocken, and waited till ordinary time of the car's arrival but as it did not come, and fearing we would be uneasy, they came home. We were much disappointed and quite uneasy about Joseph, although I felt sure that he could not fail to graduate, but still we felt uneasy at his non-arrival. We had all been in bed perhaps half an hour, when Caroline heard some one calling in front of the house. It proved to be Joseph, who had, upon arrival at Conshohocken at midnight, borrowed Edward's horse and hurried home for fear we would be uneasy about him. We were truly glad to hear his gleeful voice. He had passed his examination with much credit. Three of the Professors, and two of the Committee examined him during 1 ¼ hours. He is up early this morning and feels as if a great load was taken off of him.

March 11: Thursday.

Joseph, Tacy and myself went in the two horse carriage to Philadelphia this morning. Joseph is to attend their commencement this evening at 8 o'clock. Caroline and her aunt Hannah Foulke are to come down in the cars at 3 P.M. and Edward, Sam Corson, Dan Harry, Clarence Corson, &c., are all to go, with them and Tacy, to see the ceremonies this evening. The horses and carriage for Joseph, Tacy, Hannah and Caroline to bring [them] home after the commencement is over.

March 18: Thursday.

Joseph and the girls arrived at midnight last night. The commencement was quite a brilliant affair. There were 31 graduates and the Musical Fund Hall was filled with a most respectable audience. I had been invited to a seat with the Trustees but as it did not suit me to stay in the city, I had declined. I attended the lectures of Professor Hodge and Wood yesterday while in the city and had a pleasant interview with each of them after the lecture. The cold spell of weather of which I spoke as beginning about 10<sup>th</sup> of February is just terminating. We have had much good sleighing with very cold weather.

I have just sent a letter to our Congressman Owen Jones, Esq. (Friday 13<sup>th</sup>) to see if he will interest himself to get Charles Follen Corson, our youngest son, in the Naval School at Annapolis. Doctor Tyson, whose son has been there a few months, is very much pleased with the school and thinks we ought if possible to get Follen there. They

get so complete an education without expense. Caroline, aunt Hannah and Tacy are all singing in the parlor. Caroline playing on the piano also, while Joseph is sitting here at the desk with me reading. Susan and Mary have just put up their mouths to be kissed as they are on their way to bed. Follen and his mother are in the parlor with the girls. Bertha and Frannie are at Gwynedd where they have been since Sunday afternoon. Edward has just left (3P.M.) for Conshohocken to attend an obstetric (he lives there).

April 26: Monday.

Sunrise. All in bed or just rising. Heavy white frost. Joseph has had two offers of situations, one at Louisville, Kentucky, the other at Minnesota (St. Paul). He prefers St. Paul, and is now daily looking for an answer to his proposal. He has been with us since his graduation recruiting, after an apprenticeship of 3 ½ years.

The Rev. Dudley Tyng, a celebrated young divine, who was compelled to leave an Episcopal Church in Philadelphia about two years since touching on slavery and its sinfulness, but for whom a church has since been built, and who is more prominent now than any other minister of the Episcopal Church, received an injury about two weeks since, by which the brachial artery was torn near the axilla, and the culpable ignorance and malpractice of the homeopathic who was called to see him, lost his life. Doctor Caspar Morris of Philadelphia, a recreant Quaker, who married Miss Chester, the owner of slaves, has the unenviable notoriety of rising in the church to insult Mr. Tyng for his rebuke of the sin of slaveholding. There has been for nearly two months a great excitement nearly all over the United States on this subject of religion. Union prayer meetings have been held daily for a single hour at conspicuous places in cities, where every class of society, all ages and sexes, were invited to come in if it were only for a few minutes, as they passed to or from their work or business, and if they felt like praying aloud they were invited to do so. These meetings are now held in every part of the cities in large halls, saloons and store houses. At one of those meetings in Jayne's Hall, Mr. Tyng delivered an affecting discourse two weeks before his death to the Young Christian Association, after which meeting, I understand Doctor Morris sought him, and had a reconciliation. If so, he partially atoned for his misdeed. If he would now apologize to the slaves of the United States, to God and to Man, and labor for the cause of humanity, his Christianity would assume a different phase from that of the last few years.

And now I come to record another death, sadder to me than even that of Rev. Dudley Tyng. Lewis Rutter, son of Clement Rutter of Philadelphia, and son-in-law of Robert T. Potts, started last fall in the vessel Grey Eagle (belonging to the firm of his father, self, &c.) to go to Rio de Janeiro for coffee, when off Cape Hatteras the vessel was wrecked in a sudden squall and was with difficulty gotten into Charleston harbor. He then returned and after the vessel was refitted, he very reluctantly started again just after New Year's day. At Rio they loaded several thousand bags of coffee and started for home about the middle of March. Four days out from Rio they found two of the seamen down with yellow fever. Young Rutter at once plunged into the fore-castle to nurse the sick and dying men. In a few days, 22<sup>nd</sup> March, he was himself a corpse, and his body committed to the waves. The news reached his wife, who having heard of the arrival of the ship at the breakwater, was sitting up awaiting him, at 2 o'clock last Friday morning 23<sup>rd</sup> April. If it came upon us all with overwhelming force, inflicting a deep sorrow, oh! how keen was the agony inflicted on the loving wife and mother. It is sad to

think of. Never have I seen a finer man. There was no cant, no hypocrisy in his nature, kind, jovial, generous, full of humour, the very embodiment of noble principles and the daring and courage which could and would defend them at any time, or place and against all assailants. I will not say peace to his ashes, but peace to his noble spirit.

Last Saturday evening a week (Ap. 17) at 8 o'clock I attended a Wistar party at corner 4<sup>th</sup> & Prune Streets, residence of Hon. Job R. Tyson of Philadelphia. We had a very pleasant evening and separated for our homes at a little after 11 o'clock. There were about fifty gentlemen present. I met there my friends, Doctors Hays, Norris, Caspar Wistar, Wm. Elder, author of E. K. Kane's life; Hare, former professor of chemistry in University of Pa.; Kennedy, prof. in Pyrotechnic College; Emerson, a med. writer of eminence, and Pancoast and Gross, professors in Jefferson College. There were some other med. men of my acquaintance whom I do not now recall. I also met Mr. Drayton, was introduced to Geo. M. Wharton, Judge Baker, General Patterson, Jno. Livezey, &c.

Last Saturday, Ap. 24, had a meeting of the Montgomery County Med. Society, rather an uninteresting time.

Brothers William and Charles are terribly harassed by the creditors of Corson. Everything will be taken from them, I think, before the year is through.

May 3: Monday.

At 9 o'clock went to Philadelphia on my way to Washington to attend the National Medical Association. Thursday evening arrived at home from Washington where we had a very large meeting of medical men from every part of the Union. On Tuesday night we had a reception at President Buchanan's, also at Doctor Reiley's and at Doctor Tyler's, Wednesday night at Doctor Garnet's, Doctor Miller's and Doctor -----.

On Thursday night there was to be a party at the house of Senator Douglass and two other physicians but as I did not remain, I did not go there. On Friday they were all to go on a steamboat trip to Mount Vernon. I would have liked to go but as Joseph was expecting to go to Saint Paul's, I thought I would like to be at home with him.

May 9: Sunday.

Last evening and today several young men were here to bid Joseph "good bye."

May 10: Monday.

9 o'clock A.M. Joseph has just started off with his mother in the carriage to Philadelphia so as to leave in the Rail Road Car for St. Paul tonight at 11 P.M. in company with George and Edward Jones who will be with him as far as Chicago. Our parting has been a great trial. We were all here but Edward, and all wept, not for grief for Joseph wishes to go and we were willing, but it was the thought of parting from him for perhaps a year or two. Although he was at Savery's 3 ½ years, yet only on one occasion did a week elapse without bringing him home Saturday evening to stay till Monday morning.

Joseph staid in St. Paul but 10 days, and then came directly home. His employer shirking a little from the bargain. Well we are satisfied to have him at home.

August 12: Thursday.

Joseph has been working on our little farm all summer, and has increased his health and strength very much. We have had a great excitement in the Country for some time on account of the unsuccessful attempt to lay a telegraphic line or cable, from Ireland to New Foundland. Many people ridicule the whole thing as being very ridiculous. The ships (two British and two American) have started for their rendezvous in mid ocean to try it again. I have no doubt they will sooner or later succeed.

The Telegraph is laid, extending from Valencia Bay to Trinity Bay. Great rejoicing and tolling of bells throughout the whole United States. The first message received over the wires, a message from Queen Victoria to President Buchanan.

The only appointed celebration in any city was that which took place in N. York City on the first day of September 1858. It had been announced for about two weeks. Immense preparations had been made, and the day before the appointed time every steamboat and car train came crowded with strangers so that by evening it was difficult to secure a lodging place at first class houses. Early on Wednesday morning Sep. 1, the streets were crowded by people. Flags, banners with inscriptions, Mottoes, &c., fluttered from 10,000 windows or waved their immense folds across the whole street. By 8 A.M., Broadway was a living mass as far as the eye could see (we left, Samuel Corson and myself, as may be seen on the next page, for Boston). From this hour until dark the immense procession paraded the streets, reaching the Crystal Palace at 6 P.M., where an oration was delivered, and a feast had. Until midnight, in every part of the city there was one universal Jubilee. The hero of the day was Cyrus W. Field, a citizen of N. York, who was believed to have successfully accomplished the laying of the cables which united the two hemispheres by an electric communication. So ended this day. It remains to be seen whether they have not, as other cities I believe shouted before the perfect victory.

August 31: Tuesday.

At 6 A.M. I started with my nephew Samuel Corson (George's son) to Philadelphia on our way to Boston, or rather to Harvard University at Cambridge three miles from Boston. Had a collision with a train of cars twenty miles beyond New Brunswick. The engines were so injured, we could not proceed for 3 hours so missed the train at N. York and had to remain all night. Town filled with strangers who have come to see the celebration of the laying of the cables, which is to take place tomorrow. Hotels full. Got a room at French's. Wednesday at 8 A.M., Sep. 1, Broadway a living mass. Banners flying, flags waving all over city. We left at 8 A.M. in rail road for Boston. Delightful ride. At 6 P. reached Boston. Went to Revere House in Court Street. Took supper, then went to Cambridge to look out President of College; did not find him; came back wearied and went to bed.

September 2: Thursday.

Up at 6 A.M. Breakfast and was at the College Hall in Cambridge by 7:45. At 8 the students numbering many hundreds (and Samuel among them) entered on their examination. After viewing the buildings and grounds I went to the house of Professor Agassiz, but as he was absent at Nahant, I failed to see him. I then visited Bunker Hill

Monument, Faneuil Hall, &c. and took a steamboat ride to Nahant, 14 miles out in the bay.

September 3: Friday.

After breakfast Sam left for the University and I went to see the wit and poet, Doctor Oliver Wendell Holmes. A passenger rail road car leaves the front of our hotel every five minutes for Cambridge and as the Doctor lives but a single door off from the street just before we reach the bridge which leads to Cambridge, I was soon knocking at the door of a genteel looking brick house bearing the name Holmes in modest letters. "Good morning Doctor Holmes, Doctor Corson of Pa." "Take this arm chair Doctor, I am happy to see you. What part of Pa., Doctor?" And the trim and agile and pleasant Professor of Anatomy on the Boston Med. College bustled around to raise the blinds to allow more light, shoved some chairs to the wall, and then took a seat near me, and entered with a hearty good will into a pleasant chat with me. I spent a few minutes with him and then took leave to pay a visit to the Massachusetts General Hospital which he was anxious I should visit, and regretted that he was unable to go with me as the Press was behind him pushing him hard for "copy." So I left the renowned "Autocrat of the Breakfast Table," whose papers are now a monthly feast to all the readers of the "Atlantic Monthly" and wended my way to the hospital. Doctor Ware, the visiting physician took me with him to see all the sick inmates and afterward Doctor Townsend showed me all the surgical cases. Doctor Gay aided by Doctor Townsend and in the presence of Doctors Stone, Lyman, Lewis, Warren, and others operated on a female to extract a large tumour from the middle, posterior part of the thigh. After dinner, Samuel and self visited the Boston Common and at 5 o'clock after making a short call on James Russell Lowell, Samuel went to University Hall to hear the results of his examination and I went to the College Museum to await his coming. In about half an hour he came, looking serious and disappointed. His examination was not satisfactory. He was so deficient in Greek that he could not even enter the freshman class without being so loaded down with conditions that he would not stay, but concluded to enter the University of Pa. for a year and then try to enter the sophomore class of Harvard the coming year. At night we went to the Theatre and saw the first appearance of Laura Honey, in the character of "the child of the Regiment." She is a young and pretty English girl and performed her part well, and was received with great enthusiasm.

September 4: Saturday.

Left Boston by railway at 8 A.M., arrived in Philadelphia at 10 P.M. Stayed at Black Bear in 5<sup>th</sup> Street below Market.

September 5: Sunday.

We took 9 A.M. cars for home and arrived at 10 safe and sound. Family all well, and Edward had attended to the practice without difficulty. Brother George paid my expenses, which were nearly \$30.00 and as much for Samuel.

September 8: Wednesday.

Nancy, our daughter Tacie, and myself left home at 6 A.M. to take the Cars at Penllyn for Bethlehem, where Tacie is to be at school. Her grandmother and aunt Susan,

accompanied us in the Cars. Arrived at Bethlehem before 9 A.M.

Went to the school, entered Tacie, then all went to the Sun Hotel to dine and at 5 P.M. grandmother and aunt Susan left for home, Tacie for the school and her mother and myself for Mauch Chunk, where we arrived at dusk and took rooms at the Mansion House.

September 9: Thursday.

Rose early. At 8 A. off for Summit. Went over the Gravity railroad, 25 miles long and returned to Mansion House so as to dine at 12 noon and take cars ½ hour after for Bethlehem. As we had to spend 3 hours here before we could leave for home we called on Tacie and spent an hour with her. She seems happy. Met Frannie Brooks, an acquaintance of ours, at the school as a teacher. At 5 left for home and arrived at 8 P.M.

This morning while we were away, Joseph went to Philadelphia, corner of 16<sup>th</sup> and Vine, to attend a retail apothecary store. Wages 15 Dols. per month and board.

October 9: Saturday.

The comet<sup>liii</sup> has been visible in the N. West every evening for about two weeks or more, from dark till 8 o'clock or a little later. Tonight it is at its greatest brilliancy, being now as near to the earth as it will come. It is said to be 240 millions of miles from us, flies at the rate of 250,000 miles per hour, or about 66 miles per second. It does change its place rapidly as may be seen by its daily advance southward, each successive night showing a much more southerly position than that of the preceding. It is perhaps as brilliant a comet as has ever been seen. The tail has gradually become more and more elevated until it now must hold itself at an angle of at least 60 degrees with the horizon, and stretch itself across an extent of at least ----- degrees before it disappeared, which was about 22<sup>nd</sup> of Oct. The tail was perpendicular and the comet had passed down so as to be just S.W. At its height it was perfectly splendid for about 1 ½ hours each evening.

"All hands" up at 4 ½ A.M. to get Follen and Carrie off to Bethlehem. At 6 o'clock Annie Harry arrived and set off with them to Pennyllyn [Penllyn]. Returned in the evening all well. Found Tacie well.

December 22: Wednesday.

Edward went in the evening train to Bethlehem to bring Tacie home tomorrow.

December 23: Thursday.

Edward, Tacie and her friend Julia Erwin came home. Julia is from S. Carolina, a quiet, modest little girl of 16 years.

December 31: Friday.

10 o'clock at night, Tacie and Julia went to Philadelphia today. Joseph has been disappointed in getting into the Calico printing business today. I have had much very interesting practice for the last month. The winter has been mild thus far, but yet, there was quite a snow storm. The past year has been one of great depression in all kinds of business. It has been improving somewhat for a few months.

Our family has been but little sick during this past year.

My sister-in-law Emily Foulke was married Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> to Charles Bacon Jr., son of Charles Bacon who married her sister Lydia Foulke. Caroline and Edward, their mother and myself and Susan and Follen attended the wedding held at C. Bacon's Senior. It has become very fashionable to wear the beard, and so I have allowed mine to grow except on the upper lip, and as it is grey, and quite white in spots, it looks pretty comical. Well, the year is nearly out and I do not know that I am better or worse, more happy or more miserable than this day last year. I hope I will so improve the coming one as to make a more favorable report when another old year is dying out. I will take a retrospect of what has passed in the old year, and it shall be an earnest endeavor of mine to reform where I have been in error in my practices or opinions. How dark is the future! I can say nothing with certainty about what condition of things will pertain in this house and around this table another year at this hour, where mother and Caroline are busily sewing and Joseph is reading to them one of Dicken's works, while I write. Edward is at Conshohocken. Susan, Follen, Bertha, Frannie and Mary are in bed, asleep. How will things be at this hour next year, I know not. I do not wish to know, assured that if we perform our duties well, all will be well with us. We will trust in God, and try to do our duty.

## 1859

January 2: Sunday.

Night, after 11 o'clock. After having practiced all day, I went at 7 o'clock P.M. to see a patient at Norristown with William, returned at 9 ½ P. and after 10, set down to write in Miss Julia Erwin's album. I have just finished it. She is a young lady from S. Carolina, who came here with Tacie, from Bethlehem school, to spend the holidays. They return tomorrow.

To Miss Julia Erwin of South Carolina. As the friend and companion of one who is dear to me and whom I call daughter, and who holds you up to me as one so kind, so gentle and affectionate, that you have endeared yourself to her, and made your own, her holiest affections, it may not be inappropriate in me, to comply with your wish that I should write a few words in your Album. Young as you are, you have already commenced the serious duties of life. Until within a year you sported and reveled as a child in your Southern Home, playing gaily with little sisters and brothers, receiving the copious showers, the rich blessings which only a mother's love can shed on the joyous heart of childhood. But the hour came at last, when the mother was called upon to submit to a long separation from her child, in order that you might fit yourself for making your way in this world. Think not that this was a trifling sacrifice of feeling on her part. It was to her as to you a painful separation, and submitted to only, in expectation of ultimate good to you. The recollection of this will, I hope, stimulate you to faithful exertions, to reward your parent for the sacrifice which she has made. How delighted she will be to see you return at the close of your school term, to the old homestead, the same gentle and affectionate daughter, your mind strengthened and enlightened by education, and your heart, affections fostered into luxuriant growth, by daily, social intercourse with the gentle, loving strangers, who share your joys, and help to bear your griefs at school. Let not years of absence from home cause you to forget your mother.



Cherish for her an abiding love and it will bring rich blessings on your head.  
Hiram Corson

Sunday night 11 P.M.  
January 2<sup>nd</sup>., 1859.

January 14: Friday.

We have had three or four days of cold weather since New Years-day, and we have filled our ice house with ice about 8 inches thick. Weather now very warm. Roads getting muddy.

Reuben Lukens and wife, Lewis Lukens and wife, Charles Wood and wife and B. Harry and wife and Miss Hannah Livezey all took tea with us this evening. We had quite a pleasant time. My practice has been very good for some weeks, and my health very good.

February 14: Monday.

Last evening, Sunday evening, after riding all day, the little girls wanted me to write some Valentines. Here are some specimens:

To little Ella Tyson, Doctor James Tyson's daughter, only 10 years old:

Little Ella sweet and gay  
Oh! tell me what I ought to say  
Say I love you? I am too young,  
To take Love's language on my tongue,  
But I will say in one brief line  
That I will be your Valentine.

To Miss Anna Lukens, one of our scholars aged 14:

- 1 Oh Anna dear how shall I tell  
The love I bear for you, my Queen,  
For you are sure the sweetest belle,  
That ever was seen of sweet fourteen.
- 2 Your auburn hair, your sparkling eyes,  
Young Ezra says are all his own,  
But as I live, I'll have the prize  
Or else I'm not my father's son.
- 3 Your pouting lips and blushing cheek  
That gawky Henry says he'll kiss,  
Oh! gracious goodness! Save the meek  
Young Anna from a fate like this.
- 4 Oh! let them go, those rustic boys,  
You know the city beaux are fine,  
I love you and I'll bring you joys,  
And ever be your Valentine.

Cephas

To Frances Cresson, aged 14:

- 1 Oh! can it be two years have fled  
Since last I wrote, my dearest Fran,  
That two years more are on my head  
And I am now, almost a man.
- 2 And are you now a full grown belle?  
Why Fran you surely are sixteen,  
That age so sweet as Poets tell,  
When love through every heart doth stream.
- 3 You surely do not love young Crouse,  
Jacoby, Smyser, or young Schall,  
My love is better than a house,  
And you are lovelier than them all.
- 4 Your cousin "Jule" is very sweet,  
And I do think, she loves me well;  
She told my cousin up the street,  
That I in beauty do excel.
- 5 I am so tall, my hair so black,  
My eyes she says are like a coal,  
And when I kiss, Oh! what a crack.  
Now Fran she means the kiss a stole.
- 6 Stealing is now always wrong  
For though I gained she did not lose  
So after this I'll go it strong,  
And kiss the girls whene'er I choose.

H.T.C.

February 17: Thursday.

[Was] in the city yesterday with Dr. Lewis Read showing his patient who has had his left carotid artery divided by a knife in the hands of a Rowdy. General opinion by surgeons that while they would have said such a theory was impossible, they could not but think in this case it had been done. Also had a little boy seven years old with a tumour in the left side. Today I passed an exploring needle into it and gave exit to some dark blood which induces me to believe it is a Fungus Haematodes. Drs. Atlee, Hewson and Gerhard all advised the exploration. After taking about ounce 1 of this bloody fluid I closed it by applying a strip of adhesive plaster. Next day, he was running about as usual.

February 20: Sunday.

Boy still running about quite well.

February 21: Monday.

Joseph entered into partnership with Lawrence E. Corson.

February 22: Tuesday.

Washington's Birth day. Great military celebration in Norristown today. Today at noon, the scholars at our school sent me a petition by two of the boys, Henry Corson and Lewis Wills, as follows:

To Dr. Hiram Corson. Please to grant to the scholars of Maple Hill, the permission of having a Holiday this afternoon, it being Washington's birth day. And oblige us the scholars

Annie Lukens	Charles W. Comfort
Susan F. Corson	Annie G. Wills
Bertha Corson	Louis Shoemaker
Sallie C. Comfort	The following had gone to dinner:
Frannie S. Corson	Mary Cresson
Ezra Comfort	Helen Corson
Henry H. Corson	Ida Corson
George Corson Jr.	Marcus Corson
Louis E. Wills	Sallie Ellis
John D. Shoemaker	Mary Wentz [?]

To which I replied:

To the scholars of Maple Hill school.  
In answer to your prayers I say  
That you may have a Holiday  
Whene'er the morning that gave birth  
To the most illustrious man on Earth  
Shall come around, about this way.  
So, Dear Children, go and play  
The remainder of this cheerful day.

The two ambassadors ran down to the school house with it, and the eldest girl, Annie Lukens read it aloud. As soon as it was read, a shout went up, and out rushed all hands for play.

I have already on the 21<sup>st</sup> made a note of a partnership between Lawrence E. Corson and my son Joseph K. Corson. We were anxious that Joseph should continue at the drug business, but no place could be found for him this last year since he returned from Minnesota (except one month in a retail store) until within two weeks, when he was offered a situation in Crew's Laboratory, corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and Oxford, at \$6.00 per week with no hope of higher wages for years to come, and no chance to learn much but the duties of the store room. At the same time Joseph had a chance to go in with L. E. Corson in a Lime business. It is a very large business, nine kilns, a good Quarry, fine wharf on Schuylkill, rail-road from the kilns and quarry to it. Great opportunity to sell lime to Delaware and Maryland, and stone for various places, besides 100,000 bushels an annum taken away by our Farmers from the kilns in wagons. They got 8 cts. per bushel at the kiln. They receive much wood from the farmers for lime and they have ready sale for this to the Norristown Railroad Co. at a fair price. So I think they will have a fair chance to do well, and as Joseph prefers an out-door, country life, we have all concluded that he may try it. Lawrence has already taken from his partner last year the carts, tools, &c., &c., amounting to about \$1,300, and so Joseph puts no money into the Concern, and

Lawrence charges him no interest for his half, in consideration of his devoting his whole attention to the business while Lawrence only gives a part of his time. Next Spring they will settle and Lawrence will deduct Joseph's half (for which L. holds a note without interest) from his profits if they are sufficient. Tomorrow morning Febr. 23<sup>rd</sup>, Joseph enters upon the duties.

March 8: Tuesday.

At 11 ½ A.M. my sister Sarah Read departed this life; there were around her bed her three daughters and her sons Joseph and Lewis (Alan is in Germany), her granddaughter Ellen Jones and myself. She had been confined to bed about two months. She had had a cough for many years. At the time of her death, she was exceedingly emaciated. She was buried on Friday (11<sup>th</sup>) at 2 P.M. in Montgomery Cemetery. The funeral was quite large, and exceedingly quiet and solemn. Joel Lair preached at the house and at the grave. Never in all my life, from the time my mother died, when I was yet only six years old and she and Mary took charge of us little boys and supplied to us our mother's place, have I had one word of disagreement with her. We have lived in harmony and been ever ready to aid, and sympathize with, each other. She was a kind, thoughtful sister and mother, fond of reading, quick of perception, witty and generally pleasant, although there was a river of sadness ever perceptible to those who were much with her. A couple of weeks before her death in speaking of the visit of her son Lewis to the Crimean, where he went for a few years since to enter the Russian Army as surgeon, she said, many persons were so surprised that she did at all give her consent for him to go, but she replied to them, "The same providence is over us everywhere. It is as near to Heaven from the Crimean as from Norristown." She had an impression that he would return safely and so it had turned out. She was born 12 Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> 1793 being 65 years 2 mo. 13 days old.

March 15: Tuesday.

Edward got a notice today, to attend before the Board of Examiners, of the Navy at the Naval Asylum, on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> at 10 A.M. for examination of assistant surgeon in the Navy. Some two months ago Edward made application to Hon. Owen Jones to procure from Secretary of the Navy, an order for examination, which was procured and since that time he has been preparing himself, about 10 days since we saw the public notice of the time at which the Examining Board would meet, and since then I have been examining Edward each evening. I find him well prepared as I think.

March 19: Saturday.

Edward met the Board, delivered his warrant, was directed to write an account of his educational career, which having done he was directed to present himself at 10 A.M. Monday next.

March 21: Monday.

Took from us a letter testifying to age and character (candidates must be under 21 years) and a letter of recommendation from Hon. Owen Jones. Today each candidate was furnished with pen, ink and paper and directed to write a Thesis, without leaving the room, on a given subject. His subject was soda.

March 22: Tuesday.

10 A.M. Met again. 12 written questions to be answered in writing. This required seven pages and occupied nearly 2 hours. Four other days were consumed, one in examining medicines and the sick and passing on them, one in oral examinations by Drs. Miller and Hunter, one in performing operations in the dissecting room and the last one, April 1, 1859, in an examination by the President Doctor Ruschenberger [sic]. When the examination was closed Doctor Ruschenberger was very kind and commendatory and said he "would be happy to think every doctor in Pa. knew as much as he did, that if he should hear from them by letter, the next time they would meet would be in the Service." Edward met his friend Doctor Joseph Foulke at the examination and as they were both doing this secretly as possible, they mutually pledged secrecy.

May 1: Sunday.

Joseph Foulke has leaked a little. Dr. John Foulke a few days since spoke to my brother Wm. about Edward having been before the Naval Board and having passed a very good examination. Wm. was quite surprised, and Doctor Foulke finding it was a secret with us felt quite simple that he had unwittingly exposed the indiscretion of his friend Joseph. No one but Wm. and Doctor Lewis Read have the least inkling of it except Mr. Swartz, who boards with Edward. We are anxiously waiting to hear the results though we have no doubt but he will be elected. We hope he will be high on the roll of merit.

May 19: Thursday.

I got a letter from Susan, as I rode out to Plymouth, directed to Edward. As we have been looking daily, almost a whole month for the decision of the Naval Examiners, I opened the letter and found it to be from Doctor Rushenberger [sic], President of the Naval Examining Board, announcing that Edward was No. 2 in the list of successful candidates, when 10 only were selected from sixty examined.

May 23: Monday.

Edward received another letter, from the Medical Bureau at Washington, directing him to make immediate preparation to enter upon duty, and stating that his commission would follow in a few days.

We do begin to feel sad at the prospect of separating from him for so long a time, perhaps for ever. We are all excited and nervous.

Edward has just returned from the city where he has been to see about his outfit, &c. He went on board the Sloop of War, Lancaster, with Robt. R. Corson to see the surgeon and ascertain what he will need. The surgeon told him he would be most probably assigned to that ship, which will be agreeable to him as it is a very large vessel, with most comfortable quarters for the officers. If not put on the Lancaster, he will probably go on the Hartford, a new ship of precisely the same kind, now lying at Boston, which is to sail in a few days for E. India Station and on the same day the Lancaster to the Pacific Station.

May 24: Tuesday.

Edward and his mother have been in Philadelphia all day, procuring a ward robe for him. He has just returned. His mother staid. He met one of the Examiners in the

street today, who told him that the man who was No. one was the former Demonstrator of Anatomy in Philadelphia Medical College. Joseph Foulke did not succeed. Edward will stay here tonight, and will not likely spend much more time in Conshohocken. Hosts of friends have called on him to congratulate him on the honor to which he has attained by an examination which placed him so high on the roll of merit. It is considered a great achievement to pass the examination at all, but to be second, where 60 were competing, was indeed an honor. We are all feeling better about Edward going away, as almost all his friends think well of it, and he has a prospect of so comfortable a ship.

May 25: Wednesday.

Received his commission.

May 27: Friday.

Received order to report himself on board the Hartford at Boston.

May 30: Monday.

Edward left here at ¼ before 7 A.M. to go to Boston. Dr. Miller went with him from Philadelphia.

The Norristown papers published some complimentary notices of Edward, all of which I sent to him to cheer him up. About the first week in June at our Medical Convention in Philadelphia I met a number of medical men who spoke very highly of the honor won by him in his examination.

June 28: Tuesday.

Our last letter from Edward while he was in Boston and received today June 28 was written, or finished, at 8 ½ A.M. on Saturday June 25<sup>th</sup> and then expected to leave Boston Harbor on their long voyage at 2 ½ P.M. It is indeed a long and perilous voyage. He will hear no more from us until he reaches Hong Kong. He expects to write to us from Island of Madeira, St. Helena, Cape of Good Hope and so on. I sincerely hope he will have good health all the time and return well and happy.

July 4: Monday.

We send Edward a letter today, directed to Hong Kong, China, via Southampton, the British Steamer. This is the first since he left Boston.

July 10: Sunday.

In my practice since last Monday I have had one dislocation of hip and one double fracture of leg, both from great violence. I have done much practice the past week; have heard nothing from Edward. Carrie has been at Gwynedd the past two days. Myself and Nancy were yesterday, by invitation at Job Mathers to tea.

July 24: Sunday

Last Sunday Caroline and her mother wrote to Edward and sent it on Monday. We intend to write every two weeks. He has already been two months away from us, or rather it was two months on the 20<sup>th</sup> since he received his commission. Last Saturday

night one week ago July 16<sup>th</sup> Doctor George Maulsby and wife (he was married only about 6 weeks since) came to brother George Corson's and we went out to spend the evening with them. On last Sunday afternoon they took tea with us. She is quite a lovely woman. Dr. Maulsby expects to go to the Pacific Station to remain two years. Will start about 1<sup>st</sup> of September. He thinks the Navy is a very pleasant place for a young man, and that Edward will have an interesting trip.

Last Friday July 22<sup>nd</sup> I resolved on certain changes in my habits, &c. Can I hold out?

There are fine crops of grain this year. Plenty of pears and apples. Early potatoes in abundance. Weather cool and pleasant this past week. I have thick clothes on today and they feel quite comfortable. Not much sickness, and yet I am doing very well. Have just finished posting my books and find I have collected nearly \$1,700. I have had 49 cases of midwifery this year which is now but a few days more than half over. Edward is now gone over four weeks, and we may expect a letter soon. This forenoon I went to Hicksite Meeting. I have not been there for many months. Joel Lair preached a sermon that pleased me very much and was full of truths, and coming to operate with my resolutions may strengthen me. I hope it will as I do not like that I shall fail in carrying out any change which I desire, even though it be in most unimportant matters.

Passenger railways have been introduced into the city of Philadelphia within two years. It is now nearly filled with them. Within a few weeks the Green and Coates street road has begun to carry passengers on Sunday. This has excited the "church people," who are making an attempt to stop the Cars. They arrested the driver of one, last Sunday and during the whole of the past week he has been on trial. Yesterday Judge Thompson of Supreme Court decided that he was "guilty of a Breach of the Peace," so the Cars will have to cease running. There is great excitement among the people of Philadelphia, who are in favor of running the Cars. A meeting was held in the State House yard last night, and they are to have one every Saturday night to agitation.

August 21: Sunday.

2 ½ P.M. I am about to go to Quaker grave yard to meet the funeral of the daughter of my friend Wm. Ely, deceased, who died a few days since of Dysentery at the house of Lewis Jones (also recently deceased).

I ought to have said before that a few weeks since attended the funeral of my friend Lewis Jones, about my age, long acquainted and for a long time intimate.

Joseph and mother have written to Edward so as to send it tomorrow by John Rex. We have not yet heard from Edward.

We are told that the vessel may not touch at Madeira, and if so we will have to wait so as to hear from Cape Town.

August 22: Tuesday.

I have just mailed three newspapers to Edward, fare, four cts. each. Today's paper contains advice from Hong Kong up to June 22, just two months ago. The summer is so cool that thick clothes are very bearable even at noon-days; and an overcoat necessary to me when I go away in the evening, or in the night.

Practiced moderately all day. During the last fortnight I have not been well until within the last 3 days. I had chills, fever, headache, cough, &c.; took Morph[ine] several

nights, which relieved the aching of my limbs, and stayed my cough so that I got along very well. But last Thursday evening I took a dose of Calomel, 5 grs. which purged in a few hours and has relieved me wonderfully. I became much concerned about my sight. I could scarcely see to read even through the Spectacles. For the last two weeks I have read none scarcely, have taken rest in the day time and taken things as easily as possible and the result is that I have no aching in my eyes. Can see better than for many weeks, and can read very well indeed for a long time without aching eyes. Nothing unusual has occurred in my practice today. Little Sally Pennypacker, Helen Corson, our Susan, Bertha, Frannie and little Mary are all dancing on the front piazza. The sun is just setting in a cloudless horizon. The weather is dry, the ground parched, Caroline and Tacy are at N. Hope where they went last Saturday on a visit to their uncle Charles Foulke.

August 25: Thursday.

Received a letter from Robt. R. Corson this morning enclosing a small slip from the Courier stating that the Hartford arrived at Madeira July 14<sup>th</sup> (19 days from Boston) and left for the East Indies July 16<sup>th</sup>. This is the first we have heard of the ship since they left Boston June 25<sup>th</sup>. It is two months this day since they left Boston Harbor.

September 4: Sunday.

We have heard nothing from Edward yet, but as the "Cumberland" is announced by telegraph as having arrived at Portsmouth, N.H. on Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>, having left Madeira on the 8<sup>th</sup> of August, we may probably hear from him by the morning mail tomorrow. Yesterday I mailed a letter to him from myself, Follen and Bertha, also sent 5 papers. I was yesterday in Philadelphia to meet two gentlemen, respondents to an advertisement which I inserted for a young man to teach my school, who desired to study medicine. Mr. Clifton was a fine looking man about 29 years of age I think, who has taught several years. [He] could not accept or make a proposition until next week. The other, Mr. Baquet, only 19, a graduate of Burlington College 2 years ago, and one year since in a drug store, son of a Professor of French (a native of France) for 30 years, would like to come immediately. He referred me to Dr. Butler and Dr. Joseph Parrish. I saw Dr. Butler, who speaks well of the young man. He is an unassuming, and rather an unattractive looking person but he so reminds me of Doctor Price of West Chester, who is really a most amiable and excellent man, and exceedingly popular with those who become well acquainted with him, that I am inclined to take him. I offer him \$250 per year, and the use of my office and the advantage of going with me "in practice." I also say to him that I can, most likely, get him "free Tickets" to the University Lectures. He thinks it an excellent offer. If I get him I can have Follen to study Latin and French at home, and as Mr. Baquet speaks French as fluently as English, Follen, Carrie and Tacie may have a class for speaking French. I am to write him this coming week. His father resides at Burlington, N. Jersey. Practice has been very good for two weeks past.

Dr. E. Livezey has been here an hour or so this afternoon. He just left the Pennsylvania Hospital, where he has been six weeks in some one's place yesterday. He is looking to be elected to the Hospital on the 26<sup>th</sup> of this month. Just sent for, 4 P.M., to see a patient in Conshohocken.



September 5: Monday.

Bertha brought home a letter from the P.O. from Edward. It was written at several times, began June 29<sup>th</sup> when only 3 days out, then July 14<sup>th</sup>, again July 16<sup>th</sup>. They reached Madeira in 19 days from Boston on the 14<sup>th</sup> July, left for Cape Good Hope July 16<sup>th</sup>. He seems to have a pleasant time, much liked by the officers, and is well pleased with them. We were all exceedingly pleased to hear from him. We had heard nothing since he left Boston June 25<sup>th</sup>.

September 10: Saturday.

Mr. Francisco D. Baquet came at eleven o'clock to arrange about the school, staid here last night till bed time, then went to Jno. Cramer's to sleep. Came back after breakfast this morning and staid to dinner and tea. He is small and very boyish-looking, but is really manly.

September 11: Sunday.

Robt. R. Corson and wife came last evening and spent the day with us. Robt. and self practiced during the forenoon.

Caroline, aunt Susan, Charles Bacon Jr. and wife started for Niagara Falls last Tuesday week (August 30<sup>th</sup>) and returned Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>. She says they had a delightful trip, went by Trenton to N. York, then up Hudson to Albany, then to Falls, and back by Columbia R. Road through Pa. home.

September 12: Monday.

This morning at day light as I lay in bed I resolved on a closer attention to practice and study, and a strict watch on myself in relation to all duties.

This morning Mr. Francisco D. Baquet began to teach our school and to study medicine with me. I am to give him \$25 per month for 10 months, and am also to let him be in my office and have the use of my books free of any medical fee.

I am also to take him when convenient to see my patients and to instruct him in the healing art. He is only about 19 years of age, but is a graduate of Burlington College 2 years since, has been one year in a retail drug store.

September 14: Wednesday.

While at supper last evening just after dark Isaac came hurrying up from the lot with a report that the little colt had fallen into the iron ore hole. We ran down with a lantern and rope and found the old mare standing near to the top of the hole and the colt at the bottom of a hole 12 ft. deep and about 4 ft. across. The lantern was let down just over the body of the colt, which was lying with its head and shoulder very low in one corner inside of the hole, and then holding on to another rope I was let down. With much difficulty I secured a rope around the body just behind the fore legs and then came up, and gave the word to haul away and in a few moments he was jerked out. In a few minutes he was quite brisk and trotted home with his pleased mother. He had been in about 1 hour we suppose, as Mr. James Cresson heard the mare neighing most vociferously about that time. Yesterday and Monday have had John Hart and brother building a wall at the back of the barn yard and raising that in front. They will finish it this week if the weather be fine.

September 24: Saturday.

We met in our new room, 3<sup>rd</sup> story Norristown Hose house. Present: A. W. Corson, Edward Roberts, Saml. Tyson, Dr. Wm. Corson, B. Markley Boyer, Dr. Wm. Scott, Jacob Paxson (not a member), Doctor Poly, Doctor L. W. Read, Walter Cook, Charles Jacobs, Theodore Jacobs, Charles Elliot, Herbert Tyson, Carrol S. Tyson, Mr. Baquet, F. Vancourt, myself and one or two others (20 in all).

Doctor Scott gave an interesting lecture on the mosquito, as he has observed that insect in its various forms of larva, pupa and full grown animal, in rain water. I lectured to the Society on Cosmogony. After electing Carrol S. Tyson to membership, and doing some other necessary business, the Society<sup>liv</sup> had adjourned. There is a state of great health in the country.

September 25: Sunday.

At 2 P.M. today Joseph and Tacie went to Newtown, Bucks Co. to Dr. Heston's. Tacie is a friend of Minnie Stockton who resides there. Weather is warm and as we had several days of rain last week, the pasture is growing finely.

September 30: Friday.

Find myself failing in the resolutions taken Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>. I therefore renew them. We have men here today preparing sand for plastering our house. Brother George and myself went late Tuesday to Philadelphia to see Doctor Wood in relation to George's disease, but as he was not at home we failed to see him. When we got back to the Car office, 9<sup>th</sup> and Green, Geo. Spit a little blood. Since his return home, he has been very weak and poorly. He is riding out again today.

Yesterday, Thursday, Sep. 29, Geo. N. Corson, brother Charles Corson's son, was married in the Episcopal Church at Norristown by Rev. Nathan Stern, to Maria Hurst. The church was full of people. Nancy and Caroline and Joseph were at the wedding, Caroline as one of the bridesmaids.

October 17: Monday.

Jno. Brown at Harpers Ferry. Himself taken prisoner, 2 sons killed, 5 other prisoners and 8 or 9 killed. Also some of the Virginians killed.

October 18: Tuesday.

The Telegraph announced today that John Brown, the great Kansas Free Soiler, the brave leader of the Armed Free Soil men in that place yesterday at the head of 16 men captured the Arsenal at Harpers Ferry, took the town prisoners, made prisoners of Mr. Washington and other gentlemen in the neighborhood and attempted to liberate the slaves. That after the lapse of about 24 hours he and five others were made prisoners and the remainder were killed. It seemed a foolish affair to me at first, but as light is thrown upon it, it was not badly contrived and but that the leader was deceived by some unfounded reports of his men, it might have had a different termination. But even as it is, it will bring the subject to every home, and the terror sent through the south by it, will help on the day of the Slaves liberation.

October 27: Thursday.

Oct. 26 at 3 P.M. began to snow from N.N.W. and continued to snow fast until bed time, and this morning it is still, at 7 A.M., doing a little. The ground is covered about two inches deep, and the trees are loaded with leaves. The weeping willows are as green as a month ago. Wind in the North West.

We are building a small stone house on Charles Jones' farm, along Conshohocken Turnpike wall, but the weather became so cold yesterday that we had to quit.

November 13: Sunday.

Last evening we had a small party for Geo. N. Corson (my nephew) and his wife, married only a few weeks since. Besides themselves there were Walter Cook and Miss Addie Powell, Jos. Reed and Minnie Hurst, Peter Brown Jr., Sydney Brown, Miss Maroni, Dr. Robinson, Mr. Baquet, Alan Wood Jr., Alan Lukens, Charles Lukens, David Harry, Annie Harris, Emma Wood, Clarence Cresson, Wm. Cresson, Mary Bradford, Carrol Tyson, Sam Corson, Ell Corson. As it was Saturday night, we of course got through before midnight. Joseph, Tacie and Caroline participated and Susan, Bertha, Frannie and little Mary. I had almost forgotten Follen. Staid up till all left. It would have been pleasanter if Edward had been here.

Rev. Nathan Stern was buried week before last.

November 28: Monday.

Last Saturday just as Carrie and Tacie were about to leave C. L. Bacon's house to come home by the Cars, Aunt Hannah Foulke got a letter from Edward. Carrie had just time to glance over it before starting, so we were pretty sure there would be one for us this morning, and Bertha was out at the office early, anxiously waiting the arrival of the old mail carriage at 9 A.M. It came and she came running home with it. Two good sheets and one of them crossed. They were welcome. We had had but one letter since he left Boston; that was on July 19, at Madeira. Enclosed in his letter was a little flower from the grave of Virginia and a little fern leaf from that of Paul. They had rough weather off Cape Good Hope. He writes in good spirits, although he had been about 68 days at sea without making a single port.

December 2: Friday.

Today the Telegraph announces that Brown, the leader of the Free Soil men in Kansas two years since, and in truth the man who may be justly entitled to the distinction of freeing Kansas from slavery, was executed at  $\frac{1}{4}$  past eleven. There was a great military force enacted there under the fear, or pretence, that a rescue would be attempted. Governor Wise of Va. deemed a high minded and brave man, acted like a frightened boy. Well they have hung the brave, old man. A braver man never lived, conscientious and highly religious too. Never for a moment did he quail. He sternly refused to suffer a slave-holding or slavery apologizing minister to attend upon him. This was a noble sermon, which will convert many a heart. The slavery people fancy they can thus arrest expression of sentiments in favor of slavery, but how vain the hope. As I write, the heroism, the truth, the devotion of this man to Liberty, the death of his three sons fighting by his side even unto death to give freedom to slaves, will awaken in many a boy, a love for the right, which will be too strong for all human enactments that go against freedom.

December 5: Monday.

The Congress convenes today; a stormy time is expected.

December 9: Friday.

The House not yet organized. Republicans in majority, but as yet have not been able to elect a speaker. Criminations and recriminations the order of the day.

December 19: Monday.

Joseph received a letter from Edward today, dated Singapore, giving a very interesting account of the Mauritius, or Isle of France. We were delighted to hear from him.

## 1860

January 7: Saturday.

Congress not yet organized, no speaker elected yet.

January 22: Sunday.

Congress not yet organized, no speaker elected. We will look for a letter from Edward tomorrow morning, as we saw by the Public Ledger on Tuesday last a telegraphic dispatch announcing this advice had been received from Hong Kong, that the Hartford was there on the 15<sup>th</sup> of November when the mail left. During the last six weeks I have written five articles for the [Norristown] Republican, in relation to the wretched condition of our Poor-House affairs. After the first article a committee of five persons was appointed by the Court to go and investigate the affairs there. My writing has attracted some attention, and much good will probably result. I am much engaged in practice this winter, very good practice too.

Joseph dissolved partnership with Lawrence E. Corson yesterday, and entered into partnership with George White who bought Lawrence's part of the stock. I am afraid that in the settlement of last year's business, Joseph will not be fairly dealt with by Lawrence. In the present arrangement, Joseph will be the financier.

March 8: Thursday.

Edward arrived at Hong Kong Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>, 1859. Since then we have received three letters from him. He has been at the City of Canton, at Macao, and some other places, and when he last wrote was just ready to sail to Manilla, so as to be there at New Year. He has had good health and [is] happy so far as we can judge. They have Mr. Ward<sup>lv</sup> the American Minister on board. He has also met with Admiral Hope and other officers so badly beaten by the Chinese before the Pei-Ho Forts. He also met with Dr. Williams, a missionary who has been 12 years in China, and wrote "The Middle Kingdom."

The Court Committee appointed to investigate the conditions of the Alms-House, viz. Mehelm McGlathery, Daniel Longacre, Phillip Super, David Newport, and Jesse Gable, have reported and have fully corroborated all my charges of negligence and mismanagement, and recommend the reforms which I proposed.

Being at Norristown today, Wm. informed me that a young man had been at his office who was on his way to Crimea, from there to Hong Kong; and that he would take a small package to Edward if we wished it. So, Caroline, Follen and Susan went to Stroud's this afternoon and had their Daguerreotypes taken to send to him. They have been busy this morning rapping them up; and Caroline has finished a smoking cap for him and has rapped that up to send also. They are all to go to Lewis Read in the morning before 11 A.M. so as to be sent on by express. Saturday, yesterday and today besides my ordinary practice, I have been to Jarrettown to meet Dr. Evans in consultation in the case of Mrs. Gerrigues, wife of Lee Gerrigues.

March 22: Thursday.

I received a letter of 17 pages from Edward, part written from Manilla and part from Hong Kong, from Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> to Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>. It is very interesting and he appears to have had a pleasant time. He is quite a favorite on board. They have the American Minister on board still. He was with the Am. Minister, Commodore, &c., &c., to a dinner at the home of the Governor General. They had 12 courses of meats and six courses of desserts.

April 7: Saturday.

Received a letter from Edward (dated at Hong Kong and addressed to Caroline). Still well, except a weakness of ankle from over walking on one occasion, he thinks. I am doing a great deal of good practice. Joseph is fairly under way with his new partner. I hope they will make more money than the firm did last year, as they have not quite come out after a fuss about the prospect of making so much.

April 14: Saturday.

Medical meeting at Fort Washington. Passed some resolutions which I draw up in favor of recognizing female physicians.

May 22: Tuesday.

We have received letters from Edward regularly every 2 weeks since he has been in Hong Kong. They are very interesting and agreeable to us.

The "Japanese Embassy," so long looked for, and consisting of twenty-one officials and fifty-two servants or attendants, arrived in San Francisco about two weeks since. About 4 years since Com. Perry visited Japan for the purpose of inducing them to engage in commerce with us, and so far succeeded as to obtain their sanction to the extending of a few privileges to our merchants. Since that time our Commissions have steadily labored to induce them to send Commissions here to sign a treaty. They succeeded and that is the business of the present Embassy. Thursday next, May 24, the Treaty is to be signed in the State Department. They will then visit N. York, Philadelphia, &c., and in July leave here for home. They are much pleased with our Country. We are very glad that they have come over, as they will now treat our people who may visit Japan this summer very well. Edward is now there, we expect. Last year at this time our officers could scarcely land and walk over the Island.

June 3: Sunday.

Splendid weather. Crops luxuriant. We have heard from Edward every 2 weeks for a long time, very pleasant letters. He is still about Hong Kong and vicinity, now at Canton, then at Macao, Shanghai, &c., &c., but always returning every few weeks to Hong Kong. In his last letter he is afraid they will not get to Japan this summer. As the French and English are hovering about Pei Ho to attack the Chinese, their captor will probably remain in that region.

The Japanese Commissioners are still at Washington receiving attentions from the President and Cabinet. They will be in Philadelphia in about a week, stay a few days, then to N. York in the same way and after that leave for home. They are men of intelligence and are taking careful notes of every thing they see. Machinery attracts their attention to a great degree.

June 4: Monday.

In the beginning of May I had consultations with Dr. Newberry in three cases of puerperal peritonitis.

I have had a great deal of practice for the past month. One very severe case of puerperal fever and many cases of Rheumatism [in] grown persons, and all in one district of my practice.

Last week we received a letter from Edward enclosing the card of a wealthy Chinese, Son of one of the most favored Manderins. He came on board of their vessel and as he was about to leave they, the officers, each presented his card. He immediately sent his servant to his own ship to bring his cards, and he gave one to each of the officers.

Congress has just increased the pay of Assistant Surgeons to \$1,250 per year; it was \$960.

August 12: Sunday.

Morning. We are in a great drought. No rain of any consequence for many weeks. The country has been quite healthy, notwithstanding. I do not hear from any part of the world that disease prevails badly.

The Embassy after being a week in Philadelphia and two weeks in N. York, and entertained in sumptuous style left for home in the War Vessel Niagara, in the latter part of July.

We have cont'd. to receive letters regularly every two weeks from Edward, and last week Clarence Cresson received one, dated May 15, in which he said he would leave Hong Kong for Shanghai in two days. Yesterday we saw in "the paper" that the Hartford was at Shanghai on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May, so he has at last gotten away from Hong Kong.

A large meteor was seen on the night of July----- and many small ones have been seen since. The large one extended over a space of 1000 miles and yet was seen by all apparently at the same time, and all thought it was very near them.

**Editor's note:** The next page in the diary had pasted to it the newspaper clipping of the obituary of Dr. Isaac R. Walker of West Chester, Pennsylvania.

Doctor Walker was a young man of much promise and had an excellent practice in Chester County. Some 10 or 12 years ago he married a Widow Barton (formerly a

Miss Stillé, sister to Dr. Alfred Stillé of Philadelphia), a very rich woman, who had several children. She induced him to quit practice and lorded it over him so severely as to make him very unhappy. He became intemperate and she finally drove him from her house. He then took a small office a square or two from her house and lived there for a few weeks in a miserable condition. A few days before his death he was taken sick, and was then by himself until Dr. Hartman called to see him and had him removed to the house of his half-sister Mrs. Passmore, where he died next morning. I wrote for him the above obituary, which I hear has been very grateful to his numerous relatives and friends. He was much beloved, while his wife was despised and execrated.

September 5: Wednesday.

A letter from Edward from Shanghai, written in good spirit. Expects to leave for Japan in two days.

September 8: Saturday.

Follen Corson and his cousin Edward Corson were examined by the Professors of the University of Pa. for admission to the sophomore class. I sent a letter by Follen to Mr. Jackson (son of my old friend Doctor Jackson), one of the Professors, and Samuel Corson went with the boys to help by his explanations of their former courses of study, to have them admitted to the sophomore class. They were admitted; and during this last week they have been going down daily. They are studying hard now every night until 10 P.M.

I have built a house on the west side of the Conshohocken Turnpike Road in the Borough of Conshohocken this summer and have a tenant in it now at \$5.50 per mo.

The contest waxes warm. 4 Candidates, Republicans Abram [sic] Lincoln and Hannibal Hamlin; American, John Bell and Edward Everett; Democratic, Douglas and Johnson; Secession Democrats, Breckenridge and Joe Lane.

September 17: Monday.

A letter from Edward from Shanghai dated June 26<sup>th</sup>. Just one year after he left Boston Harbor. Not yet gone from Shanghai, but expects to go to Japan in a few days or else to Pei-Ho, where the French and English are expecting to attack the Chinese Forts. Gives us a description of his visit to the - - Tai or Mayon

**Editor's note:** The next page in the diary has a three column newspaper article pasted on it, dated Boston, July 5, dealing with Dr. Isaac Israel Hayes' upcoming arctic expedition.

October 10: Wednesday.

Andrew G. Curtin,<sup>lvi</sup> Republican, is elected over Mr. Foster, Democratic, by nearly 30,000 majority.

Abram [sic] Lincoln and Hannibal Hamlin are elected by receiving the Electors of every Free State, except losing three of seven Electoral Votes of N. Jersey.

Ever since the nominations by the Republicans, the Southern Democrats or that portion of them which goes for Breckenridge have been fierce in their threats of Secession from the Union in case of the election of Lincoln.

November 15: Thursday.

South Carolina and Georgia are making fierce demonstrations of secession. Alabama and Mississippi are also taking measures looking towards it.

November 22: Thursday.

New York Banks suspended payments of specie on acc't. of the Southern Banks have done so, and on acc't. of the rather worthlessness of claims on the South in consequence of the distrust produced by her threats of Dissolution of the Union. Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> Philadelphia banks closed. The Directors say they do this to avoid difficulty in the mercantile ranks. That now they will be able to discount freely and not have all their specie run off from them by frightened depositors and note holders.

November 27: Tuesday.

Legislatures in the South are moving in Secession. Conventions are being called there, &c., &c. But still there are but two states who seem positively determined to produce difficulty, S. Carolina and Georgia. The Country is in a panic. The Congress will meet next week, and after we receive the President's message, we will perhaps have some new phases in the secession movement.

December 22: Saturday.

The secession movement have been carried on rapidly on -- -- last. The resolution to secede was agreed on in the South Carolina Convention; so now they are as one of their speakers said, "Homeless, Homeless." The Country is quite excited on the subject. The President in his message said they had a right peaceably to secede, but afterwards said Secession was Revolution, and he should execute the Laws so far as to collect the public revenue. John Bell, the late candidate of the "Bell and Everett" party,<sup>lvii</sup> has published a letter on the subject of secession, which he says is revolution and must not be allowed. Senator Wade, a leader of the Republican Party, delivered a speech in the Senate a few days ago, in which he declares his determination not to have a single state leave the Union.

Today, Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>. the Papers inform us that Commissions have been elected by the S. Carolina Convention to treat with the U. States ( a bold move). They have cont'd. many of the U.S. officers to act the New State Government.

President Buchanan is believed to be in league with the Disunionists, as he has neglected, and even refused when solicited by General Scott, to properly man the forts in Charleston Harbor, and has allowed the arsenal containing 70,000 stored Arms to be in the keeping of the Charleston Authorities. Douglas<sup>lviii</sup> is expected to make a great Union speech in a few days. Union meetings have been held in several cities declaring that the North has been unfaithful to this Compact, that the Personal Liberty Bills shall be repealed, &c., &c., but not a word about the outrageous practices by the South on Northern people. It is now wholly unsafe for a Northern man to travel in the South. The most revolting cruelties and outrageous [sic] are daily practiced on Northern men in the South.

Since Congress has been in session, the Republican members have taken but little part in the discussions in order not to show forth their policy. A committee of one from each state has been formed to compromise the difficulty by bringing forward some



resolutions that will be acceptable to the House. The Senate has appointed a committee of 13 for the same purpose. Some in each House refused to serve. The S. Carolina Congressmen, 8 in number, have gone home to take part in the new State of S. Carolina. The U.S. Secretary of State Howell Cobb resigned a few days since and left for his home in Georgia to foment disunion there. So we go. Next week will bring some rich developments.

December 23: Sunday.

8 ½ P.M. I have practiced all day, have read all the evening or rather read and wrote. I have written to a Lady in Phila., Mrs. -----, who had been instrumental in getting Miller a short reprieve from being hung. I want her to turn her efforts toward getting the Laws for Capital Crimes abolished and changed to imprisonment. I have also been reading Watson's Dictionary of Poetical Quotations. It is an excellent book. The quotations in regard to sin, guilt, vice, are most impressive. Here is one:

"Our Sins like our shadows  
When our days in its glory, scarce appear;  
Towards evening, how great and Monstrous!"

Another: "To what Gulfs  
a single deviation from the track  
of human duties leads." In view of this  
"Let come what will, I mean to hear it out,  
And either live with glorious victory  
Or die with fame, renowned for Chivalry."

The room is filled with a lively group all talking at once, chattering and laughing, gay and happy as larks. There are Charles Lukens and Emma Wood, Wm. Cresson and Frances and Mary Cresson, and all our children but Edward who is in China, and Susan who is with her mother in Philadelphia since yesterday afternoon, on a visit to "Aunt Lydia." (Lydia Bacon who is near death from Consumption). Samuel M. Corson and his sister Helen are also here.

Death of George Corson, my brother.

For many years he had a very harassing cough and for the last few years was very poorly, indeed so much so that four years ago we scarcely thought he would get through the spring (he had several severe hemorrhages during the last 15 years), but he went out freely, rode about daily, attended to all his business and recreated so as to be apparently in as good health as for the few years before, until within one year of his death, when emaciation and debility showed that he was declining, but still his appetite was so good that he cont'd. to eat as heartily, and to enjoy as well as at any former period of his life, until the approach of the Fall of 1860 that he abstained from taking his daily rides whenever business called him. In September he began to feel so weak that it was too much of an effort to get in and out of the carriage, and his rides were short and infrequent. Before that for many years he barely get to the polls, but he rode down and voted for Morris Davis for Congress, and for Curtin for governor. By middle of October he was most of the time in the day-time on his couch, downstairs where many of his friends spent a little time with him. At night he sometimes was enabled to walk up to

bed; at other times his son Ellwood, although only a boy of about 18 years, carried him up. Early in October his feet began to swell, by the middle they as well as the legs and body were badly swelled. His face and hands partook of its after being in a horizontal position for a time, so that he began to look better than before. The spells of coughing were greatly exhausting. About Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>., he concluded not to come downstairs again, as he could not be private there, some persons whom he did not care to see would come in upon him. I saw him daily and sometimes twice a day and often staid and talked an hour or two at a time. He spoke freely of his coming death and told me of his will, which he had himself written, and of the plans which he had arranged for his son to carry on the business with E. H. Corson as it has been done, while at the same time he might study Law, as he had engaged to do Charles Lex,<sup>lix</sup> the City Solicitor. The Thursday before his death, he seemed so poorly, that I staid all night, and so on every night until he died, on Tuesday morning the 18<sup>th</sup> of November, 1860, at 2 ½ A.M., aged 57 years, 10 months and 20 days. He had not been able to speak above a whisper for several months before his death, even when he was going about the country pretty actively. About two weeks before his decease he lost his appetite, his cough was quite troublesome, expectorated very largely, could not lie low in bed, was compelled to take about ½ gr. morph. daily to still the cough and procure sleep, but still he was calm, self-possessed, conversed with his friends, &c. Three days before his departure he told me it was near at hand and gave me instructions respecting the arrangements for his funeral, and mentioned a few persons who he wished to have notice. The weather was very cool and as he could not breath well if the windows were closed, they were kept constantly up for a few nights. About 2 o'clock the day before his death, he was so exhausted in a spell of coughing that I thought he was dying and bro[ugh]t all the children who were sitting downstairs to his bedside, and as we all stood in sadness and silence around his bed, he rallied, and in an energetic manner and in his loudest voice, which was but a whisper, said to them that he was dying and exhorted them to obedience and kindness. He then lay quietly and although he took drink and occasionally made a request or remark, it was evident he was fast wearing away. By 10 o'clock he was scarcely if at all conscious, his breathing was gentle and he lay still as death could be, and so he cont'd., the breathing being more and more gentle and silent until an hour before the close I could not tell while standing on the opposite side of the bed, whether he was breathing or not, and so he passed away, in the presence of his wife and mine and myself. His children were not called up to witness his exit. They had kissed him before going to bed. Samuel had remained until nearly midnight and then at my request had lain down. My niece Hannah Schultz had been up the forepart of the night and now, with Hannah Jarrett, was taking some rest. After the close, I went for E. H. Corson, and had him go for our friend Wm. H. Dewees, to lay him out. I could not bear that an irreverent hand should be laid even on his dead body. Assisted by our neighbor Jeremiah Wills, he quietly performed the duty, and never was such an office more gently and properly performed. Next day 300 printed cards were sent to his friends, and on Thursday at 11 o'clock, the hour appointed for the funeral, a large assemblage gathered together. Miller McKim and Lucretia Mott delivered most impressive eulogies on his character before the family and friends, upstairs. Lucretia also pronounced a discourse downstairs, standing alongside of his coffin. J. Morton Albertson also gave utterance to a few sentiments. He was then borne to the Orthodox burial ground, after which they repaired to the Hicksite Meeting House, which was soon

filled to its utmost capacity, and there J. M. McKim and Mrs. Mott again gave utterances to the feelings of friendship and kindness which they had during many years cherished for him. Elijah F. Pennypacker afterwards rose and gave his cordial asserts to what they had said, their feelings as represented being a true exposition of his own. Mrs. Hannah Yost also spoke twice after the manner of Friends. About seventy relatives and friends then went back to the house and after a brief period all went home leaving only Charles Jarrett and his wife and Hannah Schultz to stay during the night with the bereaved family. Nancy and myself spent the evening till bed-time with them. George was a brave Christian man, generous, just, benevolent, scorning meanness and hypocrisy, a Lover of Truth, an advocate of Temperance, and a friend to the oppressed of every nation, clime and complexion. Sunday night, 10 o'clock, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1860. Hiram Corson.

December 27: Thursday.

News by "Evening Bulletin" is a telegraphic dispatch from Charleston that Major Anderson who has been in command of Fort Moultrie, with a handful of men, and whom President Buchanan would not reinforce, lest S. Carolina would deem it offensive, although urged by Genl. Scott and Secretary Cass to do it, has evacuated Fort Moultrie and placed his forces in Fort Sumter, a stronger place three miles out from shore and impregnable to any force S. Carolina can bring against it. How he succeeded in getting there, when they kept constant watch upon him, we do not know. Intense excitement is produced here by the news, which is most grateful to all the North, for we are now in a situation to command the harbor and the city.

December 28: Friday.

The Seceders were outwitted. They have taken the abandoned Fort, but as Anderson had spiked the guns and burnt the garrison, it is not much of a prize. The Commissioners have arrived at Washington from S. Carolina, but the Pres't. will not receive them in an official capacity.

A few days since I advertised for a teacher and yesterday received 16 applications and today have visited several in the city, also aided Dr. Turnbull to extract the root of a polypus from my nephew Ellwood Corson's ear. Got home at 4 P.M. Attended Gus Hart's wife in labor, and visited patients till 9 P. Tired beyond measure when I got to bed, having been riding and walking steadily since daylight.

December 29: Saturday.

Up early. Practiced rapidly till 2 P., then attended a Cabinet [of Natural Science of Montgomery County] meeting at Norristown, returned at dark and rode in practice till 9 P. Nothing new from Charleston. It is now apparent even to the most pro-slavery Democrats, that the scheme of Secession is an old idea with the Southern people and that Buchanan has been in the plot, so that the whole South will soon be ready to write in a body to whip them into submission.

Got 22 more applicants for teaching. This shows how many are out of employment. Caroline and Follen answered several of them today.

## 1861

January 25: Friday.

I have been laboring under a very severe cold for nearly a month and since last Sunday evening a week ago, I have been very sick and attended to no business. Indeed, for several days was not out of my room and since then until today scarcely out of the door. Today I rode to see one patient with Lewis Read who is attending to them for me.

I feel pretty well now but am very short of breath, though. I do not cough a single time from bed-time to morning. I do not know why I am so short of breath. My pulse is regular, no pain or soreness in the chest, and when I am still, no cough; a little motion, talking or exercise induces a little oppression around the upper part of my throat. I suffered in the early part of my sickness from great neuralgia of the scalp and limbs. This is all gone now. I hope I will be better soon.

The day before yesterday, the Senators from Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia withdrew from the Senate because their States had formally seceded from the Union. Some of them were much affected and altogether their deportment was very changed from that blistering, threatening manner shown by them a few weeks since. The remaining Senators and the people did not seem so frightened at their going as they perhaps expected. South Carolina is still diddling [diddling] her men, and has sent a Commissioner, Col. Hayne, to the President to ask for the surrender of Fort Sumter. The Pres't. refused to receive any verbal communication from him, inasmuch as those who preceded him had so grossly misrepresented him. So Col. Hayne had to retire and send a written communication, which he was several days in writing. The Pres't. refused to accede to their wishes. It is reported today that they are preparing a large cotton fort, by which to attack Fort Sumter. It will be strange indeed if they should proceed to that length. It is to be hoped better souls will prevail. They have seized all the Forts but Sumter and Fort Pickens and Pensacola, which are in command of Lieut. Slemmer, formerly of Norristown.<sup>lx</sup> This is a strong fortress and they have been making preparations to take it; but today we have news that they have concluded not to attack it. This is, I suppose, they will meet with resistance, and that would ensue in blood-shed and their treason might not then be so readily forgiven.

Strong efforts are (being made) by Virginia, Kentucky, Maryland, Pa. and other border states to agree on some compromise that the Cotton Seceding States can agree to and thus induce them to give over their treason. Genl. Scott<sup>lxi</sup> has been very busy the last two weeks in fortifying the City of Washington, and so concentrating U.S. troops near the city as to defeat any plan which may be laid to prevent (the) inauguration of Lincoln. There is no doubt that here was a deep laid plot to seize the Capitol before the 4th of March, preventing the inauguration of the President Elect, and make it the Capitol of the Southern States. Nothing but the refusal of the Governors of Maryland and Virginia, was at the bottom of this infamous scheme. Thank fortune the scheme was discovered and by the precautions of Genl. Scott, this City is now safe from them, we think. The Seceding members of the Cabinet resigned one after another, as the Pres't. refused to go further with them in their wickedness, and he has filled their places with good Union men, so that now the Cabinet is a unit in favor of maintaining the Union. When Floyd<sup>lxii</sup> in a fret, because Buchanan would not order Major Anderson back to Fort Moultrie, resigned his post as Sec. of War, the Secessionists of Charleston were startled at his imprudence, and

immediately telegraphed to him to withdraw his resignation, but it was too late. Buchanan had sent him a speedy reply accepting his resignation. The withdrawal of the Southern Senators from the Senate, has given the Republicans a majority of two in that body so that they can now carry their measures and confirm the appointments made by the President. For several weeks the Secessionists aided by a few Northern Democrats have prevented the nominations from being confirmed.

Within two weeks we have had two letters and Bob has had one from Edward from Japan. The last we got last Saturday, 1st, dated from the harbor of the great city of Jeddo, pronounced Yeddo.<sup>lxiii</sup> He has been almost a month in Japan, at Nagasaki, Yokohama, Canagawa and other cities. Their passage up the inner sea of Japan, which occupied about a week, is said by those who have seen nearly all cruising grounds to be the most beautiful passage of its length in the world. They anchored every night near some city where never an American vessel of war had been before. Edward had a fine ride on horseback with seven other officers through the city of Jeddo and over some of the surrounding country, all the time attended by the government officials. He closed his last letter just before they reached Hong Kong to which place they returned. It had become quite cool before they left Japan on the 6th of November. We wrote him on Monday last; every two weeks we write. He got the letters of three mails while at Jeddo.

January 27: Sunday.

I have been confined to the house since Sunday, 13th of January, 1861. I was compelled to give up practice on account of a very "bad cold" with which I had labored for more than two weeks, but which had then affected me so much in the breast, head, &c., that I had to go to bed. I was in bed one week, but Sunday I came downstairs and was down most of the day. The forepart of last week I remained in the house, but on Thursday ventured out, on Friday a little more, still more yesterday, and today I have been out most of the time. This has been a rather peculiar attack. I have often had severe, dreadful colds, &c., so hoarse for several weeks that I could not speak above my breath, but with it all, had no oppression, no shortness of breath. In this case from the very first I have had an oppression, very slight to be sure, but still an oppression, and a little walking would put me to a very hurried breathing. My cold passed regularly through its stages. I had a regular, copious expectoration. During the week I was in bed and in the forepart of the next (last) week it entirely ceased. I could go to bed in the evening and not have the least disposition to cough until morning, but on rising, or walking, a sense of oppression would come, and I would have to make a cough to relieve myself. It was in the hollow at the top of the sternum. At no time had I pain or soreness in any part of the chest. No harassing cough, only a cough when necessary to bring away the matter collected in the Bronchia; and it came readily. For several days before I went to bed I was chilly, felt as though I must be close as possible to the stove. My face at those times also flushed and burning in my scalp so sore on the right side that I could scarcely touch it. But when I went to bed I had no fever, pulse (was) regular, no thirst for water, heart rather unusually regular. What most concerned me was the oppression. It still adheres to me somewhat, although I am in every other way perfectly well. It gives me some uneasiness lest it might be some organic disease of the heart and arteries. I have been thinking for many days of trying a blister on my breast, but as yet have not done it. I have not a particle of expectoration and if I were, still would not

cough once in 24 hours. I have been taken for a few days some Brown Mixture which relieves me somewhat of the oppression. If I do not get better in a few days more, I will try a good blister to my breast.

Edward Livezey, M.D., has leave of absence from the Hospital for a week on account of impaired health, and on (the) last 5th and 6th day he spent the forenoons with me. Dr. Lewis Read attended to my patients here about, and Dr. Comfort in Conshohocken. This evening (Sunday, January 27/61) we have pretty good sleighing and Joseph and Caroline, Tacie and their cousin Samuel Corson have just returned from a little ride of a few miles.

Two years since when Edward passed the Navy Board; he was out of the fifty [sixty] that were examined, No.2. Wm. Bradley was No.1. Edward was well pleased with the high grade that he took, but felt some regret that he did not get No.1 Dr. George Maulsby, who is a surgeon in the Navy, was ordered to the Sevant, a sloop of war destined to the Pacific. As Dr. Maulsby had only been married about two weeks, and had been about 20 years in the Navy, he obtained permission from the Navy Department to go on the Wyoming which was also part of the Pacific Squadron, but which would not be ready to sail until September. Accordingly, Bradley was put on the Sevant which was then ready to sail, waiting only for the surgeon, and Dr. Maulsby was allowed to wait and come in the (Wyoming) which was expected to be ready to sail in September. Bradley and Edward had not had their commissions more than five days when they were ordered to report themselves on board the Sevant and the Hartford, both vessels then lying in Boston Harbor and ready to sail, the former to the Pacific, the other to China, or East India Station. Three days after they received their order they were on their way to Boston in company with Dr. Miller, an old surgeon and one of the examining board. After arriving there they found the Sevant with sails set and ready for sea, waiting only for Bradley's arrival, poor fellow! The whole thing after he received the notice that he had passed, was so hurrying that he had scarcely had time to get his equipment, not time to take leave of but a very few friends, and now he was to be off, as it were, without an hour's breathing time. It seemed too much for him. He absented himself for a day or two. No one knew his whereabouts, but finally he went on board; I know not the circumstances, but he seemed reluctant to go. Edward I suppose can tell more about it.

From the time until three weeks ago, we heard nothing of him. Two weeks since we heard the Sevant was lost. A list of the officers was published. Yesterday I saw in the Paper that "nothing has yet been heard of the Sevant." How sad! Poor Bradley! A dread of danger, no doubt came over him while in Boston. He has a widowed mother in Philadelphia. I will stop here in hope that the vessel will yet turn up, Sunday night, Jan. 27/61.

March 31: Thursday.

We have heard from Edward regularly every two weeks since last writing Jan. 23rd. Still well and looking for the announcement that a vessel has been ordered to relieve them, have been at Hong Kong for some time, and by the papers of last week I see that the Hartford is to go to the North again. The Pensacola, the vessel which we think is to relieve the Hartford, will not be ready for sea yet for two or three months.

Abraham Lincoln inaugurated as President of the United States 4th of March, 1861.

Since last writing on politics, Lincoln has been inaugurated. There were violent threats on the part of the Shareholders that he should never be President, and a conspiracy was formed as Genl. Scott and others believed to seize the Capitol, but Scott collected about 10,000 troops so as to be ready for any emergency, and their plans were frustrated. Seven slave states have seceded and six of them have formed a "Confederation of States." They have seized nearly all the Forts in those states. We have only Fort Sumter and Pickens and a Land Fort at Brownsville in Texas. They have so surrounded Sumter with posts that it seems impossible to reinforce Major Anderson, who is now very short of provisions and men, and therefore Genl. Scott advises that it be given up. As it seems to be of no use to us, it will probably be done. Pickens and Fort Tortugas (which I had forgotten) will not be given up but will be strengthened.

There is a great rush for office. I have just signed a recommendation for Reuben Lukens and written a letter to Wm. B. Thomas, who is expected to be the collector of the post of this city of Philadelphia, to give him the office of Weigher.

I have had a great deal of practice this winter and not been very able to do it on account of Neuralgia in my right hip and leg since I was sick in bed. I have struggled on by taking from 1/4 to 1/2 or even 3/4 Sulph[ate] of Morph[ine] almost daily. My student Mr. Charles Styer returned from Lectures about 2 weeks since. He has been reading well since that time, and is desirous to graduate next spring, and also to get into the Navy as assistant surgeon. Joseph, the girls and their mother went to Norristown last evening to hear the somewhat celebrated Irish preacher, Mr. Guinness, preach in the Brown "Church."<sup>lxiv</sup> [They] came home disappointed of course, church not full, mouthed his words, not eloquent, nor handsome. Last year he was so very popular and the Ladies ran after him so much that he supposed he could return from Europe this spring and receive the furor, but he must have overlooked the fact, that it is only while unmarried that Preachers are so popular.

We had a letter from Edward from Hong Kong a week ago in which he says he will sit down here to practice when he comes back. He is so bent on practicing here that I think I will have to arrange it for him.

April 9: Tuesday.

Rumors of War. Since the inauguration of President Lincoln, the Southern states have been taking measures to secede from the Union, and seven of them have already gone off. They have formed a Confederacy, had a Congress, created a government, seized all the Forts in those states (except Pickens and Sumter), seized the Mint at N[ew] Orleans, &c. Indeed they are in open rebellion. They have surrounded both those forts with men and batteries, thus cutting off all chances of reinforcing or provisioning them, and now for weeks they have been daily threatening to fire on those forts. The President was advised by Genl. Scott and some of the Cabinet to evacuate Fort Sumter and the Charlestonians have been looking for the order every day, but the old man does not send it and now he is moving the troops so rapidly toward the South by way of the sea, that they think he intends war. Every day we are looking for news of a fight begun. There is great excitement here.

## THE CIVIL WAR PERIOD, 1861 – 1865

### 1861

April 13: Saturday.

Fort Sumter attacked yest[erday]. Reports reached us by today's paper that Fort Sumter was attacked yesterday morning before our ships to provision Major Anderson, Commander of the Fort, had arrived. It has created quite an excitement.

April 14: Sunday.

News that Fort Sumter is surrendered. The morning papers announced the surrender of Fort Sumter. The few men in the garrison could not longer stand the unequal combat. Every railroad station was early crowded by anxious people awaiting the news from Philadelphia, and when it was announced, curses long and deep came from many a mouth unused to them. The excitement is on the increase. It is believed by many that the reports are false; I do not think so. I have had a weary day in practice.

April 15: Monday.

After seeing a few patients, I came to Conshohocken at 9 o'clock. The cars had brot the morning papers confirming the reports of yesterday. The excitement is now intense. The few secessionists who have hitherto talked treason loudly and boldly, viz., the Buchanan and Breckenridge Democrats, are being warned to hold their tongues.

Wherever I rode this forenoon, there is one universal feeling of excitement to stand by the "stars and stripes."

Dr. Lewis W. Read, my nephew, and Dr. Wm. Ramsay came here at noon and informed me that the excitement at Norristown is furious. The "Editor of the Register" has been warned not to utter another traitorous word, by voice or pen. Indeed the fear is that the law and order people will not be able to prevent his office from being sacked today. In nearly every town in the state the same state of feeling exists. The President's Proclamation calling for 78,000 soldiers, and ordering the Congress to meet on the 4th of July next, appeared in the papers of today.

The excitement of the people of Philadelphia is represented as excelling everything ever known there. Chestnut St. was a dense mass of human beings from 7th St. to Third (St.). An obnoxious printing office (was) demolished, Custom House, Mint and other places were visited by the crowd and the incumbents directed to hoist the "Stars and Stripes," which order was quickly complied with. So, printing offices that had not already flung out the Flag, were compelled to give it to the breeze. Every town is mustering its volunteers. We hear there is a riot at Harrisburgh this afternoon. There is a bill before the House to suppress treason in our midst. The sympathizers with the Seceders will have to be silent if that pass(es), for its penalties for every treasonable talk is very severe.

Last week \$500,000 were appropriated by law to arm and equip the Militia and volunteers of our state.



April 17: Wednesday.

The volunteer companies in Norristown are filling up rapidly with young men. Walter Cook, Geo. Corson, W. Yerkes, young Slingluff and many other of the young men of the Upper Ten are going.

Today at noon Charles Styer, my student came here and told me that himself and Brother are going. I was quite surprised, as two days ago he did not seem to have thought of it. In a few minutes after my son Joseph came in and said he also wished to go. He has just come from Norristown and has the war fever in earnest. He and C. Styer both seem quite restless and nervous. In the evening Mother and myself went to Norristown on business. The excitement is intense there. Several companies [are] drilling, and the pavements [are] full of earnest men, discussing the affairs of the Country.

April 18: Thursday.

Jos. wants to go. Sydney Brown and brother join the "Norris Rifles." Joseph still wishes to go. The girls all [are] decidedly opposed. Mother and myself think as he is so earnest and bases it on the duty of going, that perhaps it will be better. But I have not yet allowed him to enrol himself. We are all sad about it. Joseph came from Norris[town] at noon and reports that Sydney Brown and Peter Brown, sons of Geo. Blight Brown, have joined their Company, and their father has joined or is raising a Co. in the city. We have had a dull sad evening, and have concluded to go to bed without a positive decision.

April 19: Friday.

I proposed to Jos[eph] and his mother this morning that they should go to Mrs. Cook's in Norristown and see her, see on what grounds she allows her only son to go.

10 A.M. They have returned. Mrs. Cook says she is "sure it will shorten her life, but she cannot think of keeping him at home." This is the decisive battle in which Freedom is to lose or win, and as Jos. has agreed to face every danger in the performance of what he thinks a great duty, we conclude to let him go, and brother, Carrie and Tacie are now busy in preparing his clothes, and he will go in a few minutes to Philadelphia to get his Photograph.

Evening. Joseph went to the city at 11 o'clock, returned at 1/2 past 2 P.[M.] to Conshohocken and I brot him from there home by the way of Wm. Wills. Clarence and William Wills are going. The parents are very sad, but they bow before the stern necessity. Charles Styer (my student) came to see us today, was here at 10 A.M., just as mother and Jos. returned from their visit to Mrs. Cook. He and his brother John were going to Philadelphia to have photographs taken, as none could be had in Norristown owing to the great rush for them. He bid us all good bye. It is a solemn thing to take leave of such young men, as they prepare to leave home to battle for their country.

10 P.M. Early this evening "Aunt Martha," and her son Ellwood came to see Joseph, and it was agreed that Joseph should be escorted to Norristown by Sam, Ell and Follen, and that Sam should stay all night with him at the Verandah House, the hotel at the corner of Airy and DeKalb St., next [to] the Jail. At 25 minutes before 9 P.M. he took an affectionate leave of us all and they went away. As he parted from us he said, he thought he was doing right and he hoped everything would end well with him. Oh what sad feelings come over us when loved ones leave us to go to such missions of duty and danger. We waited up till Follen returned and then went to bed in great sadness, but

under the consoling assurance that he had done right to fly to the aid of his country when the Capitol was in danger, and that it was our duty to acquiesce in his desire to do his duty, even at so great a sacrifice to himself and us.

April 21: Sunday.

Had breakfast early, and mother, Caroline, Tacie and myself went to Norristown to see the Volunteers depart. It was nearly 1/2 past 7 when we arrived, and children of all ages and conditions, hurried with anxious and, in many cases, with tearful faces hither and thither. Some were with those who were about to leave, and others were in scout of them. In front of the court house was an immense assemblage of Ladies. Here the Companies soon began to gather into rank, and as soon as they were in order, Judge Smyser, on behalf of the Ladies, presented a beautiful silk flag, with the stripes and 34 stars upon it. It was received by Col. Hartranft amid the shouts of the multitude. No sooner was this ceremony over then they began to march at quick step for the depot at Bridgeport. The immense multitude of spectators followed as far as DeKalb Street, where the majority turned off and passed over the bridge while the Companies and hundreds by their sides went to the lower bridge, crossed and marched up along side the special train, and when all were in and seated, it moved off at 25 min. before eight o'clock, and were soon out of sight. As they marched along side of the Cars to get into them, thousands stood along side their path to shake hands with them, and good bye, good bye, God bless you, were heard from a thousand tongues. I was often spoken to, "good bye Doctor," and if near enough the hand was warmly shaken. At last Joseph came along, with Walter Cook, the Styers, Brown, Wills, &c., &c. He looked very pleasant and saluted me in his usual way, "well Father," and passed on and took his seat in the Car, and I saw him no more. The people returned slowly and sadly to the Town. All felt the solemnity of the occasion, several hundred men taken from amongst us to defend the Capitol of our Country.

April 24: Wednesday.

Received a letter from Joseph from Perryville, Md. He says they reached Harrisburgh in six hours from Norristown, slept that night in the Depot at Harrisburgh on the bare floor. Next night [they] were preparing to pass it in the cattle pens on the state fair grounds, where they were called to march, got into Cars and arrived at West Philadelphia at 2 A.M. on Monday 23rd, then walked to the depot at (the) corner of Broad and Prime<sup>lxv</sup> Streets. Then they remained standing, sitting or lying on the floor of the Depot till 7 1/2 A.M., when they went on the Cars and started. At 9 A.M. they were in Wilmington, where they expected that perhaps they would be attacked by Secessionists, but no. As soon as the Cars were stopped, a number of colored people sprang into the Cars, loaded with baskets full of provisions and plenty of warm coffee. It was a timely and joyous report to those who had not tasted food from noon the day before. Breakfast, they passed on and soon arrived at Perryville, opposite to Havre-de-Grace. As the Maryland Secessionists had burned the bridges on the railroad from Havre-de-Grace to Baltimore, they could get no further. As they are in a State, supposed to be ready to go with the Secessionists, their situation was rather critical, but they alighted, took possession of the depot, and made a regular encampment, to await an opportunity to pass on. This was on Monday about 11 A.M. and it was from here that he

wrote the letter giving the above account of their progress. The "Norris City Rifles" had become so numerous by the addition of so many volunteers, it had to be made into two companies. Walter Cook was made Captain of the 2nd company, a young lawyer Weand 1st lieutenant, Fisher 2nd lieutenant, David Conard and others sergeant and Joseph, who knew nothing of military drill, corporal. This is not much of an office but it relieves him from standing sentinel.

April 28: Sunday.

10 A.M. We were at the P.O. at 9 o'clock but got no letter from Joseph. A few Minutes since Mr. Jamieson of Norristown sent us a letter brot up by himself from Perryville, from Joseph. (He had brot a great many to various persons). Sam Corson had got a letter from the P.O. at 9 o'clock which was written on the 23rd, ours was written on [the] 26th. He says they have had it pretty hard at Perryville, sleeping on the floor, very little to eat, a great deal of work, but he is now in good spirits, though many of the boys are awfully homesick. On Thursday [the] 26th, Captain Cook detailed 25 men, Joseph among them, to go as a guard to Genl. Keim to Annapolis and he says he never spent a more delightful day. It was 60 miles down the Chesapeake Bay; the day was warm and pleasant, and when we got there he writes, "Capt. Cook gave Peter Brown 25 men a Cart Blanche, to go and forage for food. You may believe we had a good supper, 3 buckets ful[l] of coffee and 1/2 a bushel of roast potatoes."

While he was there the students of the Naval Academy were taken out and put on board a ship to go to N. York. They had to pass over the steamboat on which our boys were to get to their ship, and Joseph says many of them were crying. Herbert Tyson, son of Dr. Tyson, who has been there about three years, is so full of Southern foolery that he resigned a day or two ago. The only student from the Free States who did, but there were about 20 from the Slave States. They returned to Perryville and after his return he wrote the letter from which I have made the above account, and he also says in it that they will go to Annapolis tomorrow and then walk 35 miles to the "Annapolis Junction," there take the rail and go to Washington. He says there were about 10,000 troops at Annapolis ready to go as soon as the railroad is repaired, the Secessionists having damaged it. This going by Annapolis is on account of the road through Baltimore being destroyed and made dangerous by the mob.

April 30: Tuesday.

Follen received two letters by mail, one from Joseph and the other from Chas. Styer. As Follen was at the college and Tacie brought them from the P.O., we soon had them open. They were good long letters written last Sunday about noon as they sat in their Tent in the straw. Joseph says, "C. Styer is writing on one side of me, and Sydney Brown asleep on the other." The letters were both very interesting and Charley closed his by saying that "Lieut. Weand has just come in and detailed five men to get a boat to take the Company to Annapolis; whether we will really get off or not I cannot say." The papers of today say that the Norris Rifles left Perryville for Annapolis at 3 P.M. on Sunday. So the probability is that they really got away. The government is pushing forward troops through Annapolis as fast as possible. The Maryland people are raising Union Flags. The Legislature is in session and have voted down the Secession ordinances. About 20,000 troops [are] in Washington.

May 2: Thursday.

On Wednesday last Mr. Jamieson went to Perryville or Annapolis to our troops, to take letters, clothes, and provisions from their friends. They have had but two, sometimes only one meal of poor bread and meat and nothing else, a day, and only a single blanket about 4 feet wide. They have really had very hard times. We sent Joseph an India Rubber Blanket, as it is called, which will do to cover him if lying out. Mother also cut it so as to be worn as a cape if necessary, to travel in rainy weather. We also sent him a boiled tongue and several dozen biscuits. Despite their hardships, Joseph wrote cheerily, and I'd not speak of their privations. C. Styer told us of them. We get the Ledger in the morning, borrow the Press of Sam at noon, Follen brings the Enquire at 4 P.M., and we get the Evening Bulletin of Sam in the evening, and yet it seems as if we did not get enough. They are all filled with the accounts of preparations for defense, blockade, reinforcing forts, assisting transports, &c., &c. At two P.M. today, Friday, May 3rd, I set off in my practice to visit a few patients, then go to Norristown and see if Mr. Jamieson had returned with letters to us (I forgot to say we sent letters to Joseph and Charles Styer, by Mr. Jamieson). When I reached there, I found Dr. Ramsay had gone down with a letter for us, but by Mr. Brown, the Jeweller; on getting home I found the girls and mother in quite good spirits. The letter was from Joseph, who says they are at Annapolis in the Naval Academy, in good quarters, though they sleep on the floor. He is on the first floor with the officers (he is a corporal) and he got the two Wills boys in his room. He tells of their being called out a night or two before, that the Enemy was reported on hand, with a strong force. They afterward found out it was to try them. Two men in one of the N. York Regiments fainted, but he says Captain Cook's Co. was game and ready for action.

May 4: Saturday.

Evening. Follen went to Norristown today to see if Mr. Jamieson had returned. He had met Lieut. Allebaugh and Mr. Schall had come from Annapolis to Philadelphia, to get the uniforms for their Regiments, and they brought about 400 letters, but none for us. Follen brought several dozen to distribute. David Schall told Follen, if we would box up anything we wished to send to Joseph, and have it at his office before noon on Friday, he would send it down by Mr. Geo. Blight Brown.

May 5: Sunday.

I went to see my sister Mary Adamson, who has been sick for two weeks. Susan went with me. We had a pleasant ride and found her able to sit up. We got home a little before sunset, and as I had been sent for to see Dr. Smith's daughter, I went over there, stopping by the way at Conshohocken to see Mrs. John Cresson who had also sent for me. I found her poorly and very sad on account of her son Jonathan having joined a Company to go to the war. Just as I was starting, James Cresson and wife, son Clarence and daughter Mary came here to take tea. Their son William had arrived, they said, at the camp and been received by Joseph and the other boys. I was sorry I could not stay with them. They had left for home before I got back.

May 6: Monday.

Excessively rainy. Practiced but little. Went to Conshohocken early to get the

news of the war operations.

The government is about to take Alexandria today [and] are preparing for a descent on Harper's Ferry. Our 4th Regiment in which our friends are, the paper says, is guarding the R[ail] Road from "Annapolis to the Annapolis Junction," about 30 miles. If so, they are not in very good quarters. Maryland is coming around to the Union very rapidly, under the approaches from every quarter of the Federal troops. Wm. Faust came here to get my black man this morning to go to Chas. Thompson Jones' troop, to the war on Saturday morning. I had promised him the mare if she would do to go, but she is too lame. She has been lame but a short time but still she does not get well enough to go, although she is good to work. As she would not do, I wrote a letter to Charles Williams asking him if he would not get a beast for him.

May 8: Wednesday.

W. Faust tells me that C. Williams will furnish the horse. Not much news from The Regiment, nor even from Washington. The Rail Road bridges burned some two or three weeks since by the Baltimore mob will be finished in a day or two so that the troops can go. The Government is gathering troops as fast as possible to Washington.

May 9: Thursday

Got a letter from Joseph and one from C. Styer today, written two days ago at Annapolis. Joseph is in fine spirits, Charley I think not so good. Joseph's mess is made up of the noncommissioned officers and is therefore rather pleasanter than Charley's. He has his brother and James Pierce in the mess, but the rest are rough, vulgar men. Joseph says he has everything he wants and does not wish us to send anything more in the way of clothing. Both speak of being in good spirits and health. The news today is decidedly indicative of war at Harper's Ferry and also at Cairo. The South is concentrating forces at or near those places. Col. Hartranft was at Norristown yesterday. He had come to Philadelphia to get better garments for the troops.

May 10: Friday.

"The Press" this morning informs us that the 4th Regiment is now in Washington City. I sent a letter to Charles this morning. We sent to Joseph yesterday two letters. A few days ago, we sent to Joseph a Gum Elastic Blanket, as it is called, to lie on, or cover him as he may deem best, and his mother and the girls cut it and fixed it so that he can wear it as a cape, and then by lacing it up have a blanket again. This evening Follen and I went up to the Styers to tell them of the letter we had received, and also to see if we had not better send them Gum Elastic Blankets. They think we had better do it. The troops from Philadelphia passed through Baltimore yesterday. Maryland is becoming enthusiastic for the Union. Some counties in western Virginia are rapidly declaring for the Union. The news from the South indicates a great enthusiasm among them, and a gathering near Lynchburg, Va. for a strong attack on Washington.

May 11: Saturday.

I went to Philadelphia today with Nancy to do a few things and see Lydia Bacon, who is very ill with consumption. My business was specially to see Wm. B. Thomas, collector of the Port of Philadelphia. Reuben Lukens has been for months pushing for an

office under Wm. and had promise of it, but a few days ago some other aspirant had Wm. informed that Reuben had cheated many persons out of money when he failed, that he had since bought a farm, &c., &c. I saw Wm. and told him that the farm was left to Mrs. Lukens by her uncle Samuel Thomas, but as regards the failure and the loss to others by it, I could say nothing. I think Reuben will not succeed in getting an office. Just as I emerged from the Custom House, I found the Chestnut Street filled with people from thence to nearly 10th St. in expectation of seeing the gallant Major Anderson, the hero of Fort Sumter. I waited for nearly an hour on the steps of the Girard House to see him come out, but he passed out of the 9th St. door, and the anxious thousands on Chestnut St. missed him. He went down Walnut, up Walnut to 17th, up 17th to Arch, from Arch to 4th., from 4th to Chestnut, up Chestnut to State House where he was received by the Mayor. I returned from the city in one P.M. car, attended to the calls and patients. At supper received a letter from Joseph written at Washington City on Thursday evening (May 9, 1861) just after their arrival from Annapolis. He says himself, Brown and Markley (Sergeants and Corporals) rode on the top [an] ammunition car from Annapolis to Washington as a guard. Their train consisted of 14 car loads of soldiers, and 8 or 10 of stores and cattle. They (the soldiers) are now quartered in the Assembly Buildings on Louisiana Avenue, just back of the National Hotel, to which latter place they resorted to wash and write letters home.

The war news today is that the U.S. Troops at St. Louis took 800 Secession prisoners yesterday. A mob afterwards collected and began stoning the troops and fired some shots, one took effect in the leg of a Captain who then ordered his men to fire, which they did and killed about 20 of the mob. Quiet was then returned.

Sister Emily Bacon and young John Bacon came up with Nancy last evening.

May 13: Monday.

But little extra news today. The counties in western Virginia have meeting of Delegates today, at Wheeling, Va. to determine on the propriety of seceding from the Eastern portion of Virginia, which has passed an Ordinance of Secession. This is an important meeting. If they adhere to the Union, it will be of immense importance to us, and will have an excellent effect on Kentucky and Tennessee. I expect our troops passed through Baltimore today.

Mother and the girls made two Gum Elastic Capes today for Chas. Styer and his Brother John. They made the Gum Elastic Blanket so that it can be worn as a cape, when they stand guard. Chalkley Styer came here this evening and took them away to send to his brothers. We made Charles a present of his. Wm. Wills and wife spent last evening with us. They are much concerned about their boys.

Finished planting our corn today. I wrote to Edward yesterday. Follen mailed it in Philadelphia today. Carrie, Tacie and Follen are around the table writing, the girls to Joseph, and Follen to C. Styer. It is now 1/2 past 10, and we will all retire for the night.

May 14: Tuesday.

Mrs. Elizabeth Wills came here at 4 P.M. Mother is making capes for her boys as soon as Follen brings up the Gum Elastic. At 4 1/2 Follen came and his mother and sisters helped Mrs. Wills to make them. She took tea and then went home, leaving our people to finish them. She is very anxious about her boys. Cress. Bradford had a letter

from Joseph today. Tacie had a letter from Camp Cameron, also from William Cresson, both speak of Joseph's health and spirits being very good.

May 15: Wednesday

Andy Wills came early for the Gum Elastic Capes and Blankets. I practiced a good deal. House cleaning going on today. No stirring news from the Capitol. The Convention of Western Virginia is being held in Wheeling. 25 counties (are) said to be represented. They determine not to go with the Rebels. Genl. Harney<sup>lxvi</sup> has taken military possession of St. Louis, and proclaimed to the people of Missouri that "that state must follow the fortunes of the Union." Genl. Butler<sup>lxvii</sup> too, has military possession of Baltimore. Ross Winant, the rich Secessionist of that place was arrested Monday, as he came from Frederick, after the adjournment of the Legislature.

May 22: Wednesday.

Since last writing a week ago, I have been very busy practicing, reading war news, &c., &c. There has been some interesting incident each day, but nothing very startling. The Troops are rapidly concentrating at Washington and gathering with Camos at Chambersburgh, York and Harrisburgh, &c. This afternoon at 5 P.M. E. H. Corson returned from Washington, where he had been to see "the Boys," and told me that Charles Styer is very ill and his brother John also quite sick. I instantly determined to go down, so sent word to James Cresson that I would go in the 11 P.M. Cars from Philadelphia. Follen rode to Cresson's and I got myself ready and went to Philadelphia in my own carriage. I found Mr. Cresson at the Depot when I arrived there. Before we started we were joined by Chalkley Styer who had received a letter from his brothers and immediately started to see them.

May 23: Thursday.

After many detentions, we arrived at Washington at noon today. I immediately visited the Boys whom I found at Samuel Freas's house, in H Street, a few doors from 6th St. Charles was very ill with Typhoid Fever. John was also ill there with the same disease. After dinner I took lodgings at the National Hotel on Pa. Avenue, corner of 6th St. The fatigue and loss of sleep, and abstinence from food, all the forenoon induced a violent sick headache and I was not able to go about any more till morning. Joseph and the Company of Captn. Cook I found in the Assembly Building on Louisiana Avenue. The room was excessively filthy and greatly overcrowded, so that the place was really quite offensive. Many of the men are sick. Joseph seems quite smart. Will Cresson has been quite sick for a few days, with colic, and Joseph has been with him at the National Hotel. William Wills has also been sick and off duty. Joseph came in the evening and staid all night with me.

May 24: Friday.

Feel better today. Have visited the sick Boys. Went with Mr. Cresson and Will, to see the Capitol. At 8 o'clock A.M. we heard that there was a skirmish at Alexandria between the Secessionists there and Col. Ellsworth's<sup>lxviii</sup> Zouaves, and that Col. E. was killed. The story was at first not credited, but by 10 A.M. it was confirmed. It was sad news. Col. E. is only 28 yrs. old and the originator in this Country of the Zouave Tactics.

A few weeks since he went from Washington to N. York, and asked for recruits from the Fire Companies. More than 1000 men offered themselves in a few hours. He selected his men and in a few days after, was at Washington at the head of his Regiment. He was an intimate friend of President Lincoln and one of his suite when he came to Washington. His death has caused a deep and sad sensation. The circumstances of his death were as follows: Last night at about 11 o'clock a large number of troops were ordered across the Long Bridge into Virginia. Some to remain near the bridge and others to march to Alexandria. The Zouaves were to drop down at the same time by steamboat to Alexandria and take possession of the city. At 3 A.M. the Zouaves came abreast the city and after receiving a few shots from Secessionists, landed and marched up to the Telegraph office. After occupying that, Col. Ellsworth took a file of soldiers and started through the town. As they passed along by the "Marshal House," he saw a Secessionist flag on the house. He observed to his men, "that must come down," and started into the house, went upstairs, tore down the flag and was carrying it down the garret stairs. The owner, James Jackson, met him and instantly fired at Brownell, but he knocked up the gun and it missed him. He then saw Ellsworth with the flag, and taking aim, shot him through the heart. Instantly Brownell shot him through the head and as he fell bayoneted him.

May 25: Saturday.

The Boys seem a little better and as I have given the Doctors my opinion, have concluded to go home at 2 1/2 P.M.

May 26: Sunday.

Got home last night at midnight. Mr. Cresson came with me, but Will could not get his discharge, although they have concluded that he is not fit for duty. So we left him at the "National." In this last spell, Joseph staid with him and nursed him for two days and nights.

Got up early this morning and practiced all day. All very glad to see me come home. The children and their mother had been quite uneasy about me, for there were rumours of fighting all about Washington. I forgot to say that Mr. Cresson and myself attended the funeral ceremonies of Ellsworth at the "White House," at 11 o'clock on Saturday. He lay in the East Room and thousands passed in to see him. The procession was very imposing and passed down Pa. Avenue to the Rail Road Depot at 1 P.M. The President and Cabinet followed the Soldiers. We came on the same train with the body. The Zouave Brownell who killed Jackson was in the car with us and had the bloody Secession Flag with him.

May 27: Monday.

Practiced all day. No very stirring news, save that the troops are rapidly pouring into Washington. The night that Ellsworth went to Alexandria, about 8,000 men passed over the long bridge into Virginia, and as some of them passed down towards Alexandria, they captured thirty-three Secession Troops.

May 28: Tuesday.

Practiced until 5 P.M., when Chalkley Styer came here from Washington and says



that the Boys are much worse, and seems desirous that I should go on again. (I forgot to say that Sam'l. Corson and Lydia Styer went on to Washington yesterday forenoon to see Joseph, and the latter to nurse her brothers).

May 29: Wednesday.

Rose early. Saw several patients and at 9 o'clock A.M. started from Conshohocken in the Cars to go to Washington again. Left Broad and Prime at 11 o'clock and 35 minutes. Lewis Lukens and his sons, Allen and Jaywood, joined me there and so I had a pleasant time of it. Captain Wharton came into the Cars and went with us to Wilmington. Lewis Lukens introduced me to Mrs. Pennock, wife of Dr. Pennock, who was an acquaintance of mine many years ago. Mrs. P. is most enthusiastic for the Union, wishes she was a man, &c., &c. We arrived at Washington at 6 P.M. I went straight to see Charley and John, found Charley very ill, would notice me but little, had an enormous abscess on the left side of his neck. The Doctor [stated] it would not do to open for a day or two, but I opened it and put him under my treatment, by consent of Dr. Dunlop. John was also quite poorly. Sam Pierce was nursing them. Returned to the hotel before supper, where I met Sam Corson and W. Cresson, who wished me to go across the Avenue to see David Connard [Conard], O.S. of Company K, 4th Reg. Pa. Vol. I found him very sick, also Sydney Brown [is] very sick in the same room where Will Wills and Sam Corson and Cresson were nursing them. I took lodging with Sam in the House with the boys, hiring our room, (the same occupied by Senator Wigfall,<sup>lxix</sup> the now noted disunionist, last winter), at 50 cts. each per day and took our meals either at National or at an eating house as suited us best. Before going to bed I wrote Chalkley Styer about his brothers and also about D. Connard [Conard].

May 30: Thursday.

Went out to Camp Montgomery, after attending to my sick patients. Joseph and my other friend are in fine spirits. (I forgot to say that the 4th Reg. moved from the Assembly building on Friday 24th, to the Farm of Joseph Gales 2 1/2 miles from the Capitol and near to Glenwood Cemetery, and they called their camp "Camp Montgomery"). After a brief visit, we (Sam and the Lukens party) went to see the Rhode Island regiment, stationed on Caton's place. They are a splendidly equipped Regiment, and well "huttet."

May 31: Friday.

After attending to my patients, I went with L. Lukens and sons and Mr. Richie to Arlington Heights in Virginia to see the Fort being erected by the Corcoran<sup>lxx</sup> Brigade, an Irish Brigade of about 1,100 men, the 69th N. York regiment. They have been there but a few days, but have a great deal of work already done.

In the afternoon we visited the Navy Yard. The Geribaldian Regiment, composed of Italians, French, Dutch, Swiss and Polanders, numbered more than 1,000 men, went with us from Philadelphia to Washington City, and today we saw them parade. Col. D'Utassay was with us in the Cars. The whole city swarms with soldiers. It is estimated that more than 50,000 are in, or near Washington. The streets are filled with them. I went to Camp again this afternoon with Isaac Styer and Alan's son-in-law Richie. Saw the Reg. parade. Geo. Blight Brown and Rus Conard came here today to see their

sons. All the Boys are better and I think that perhaps I can take them home tomorrow.

June 1: Saturday.

After a busy forenoon endeavoring to arrange things to move our patients home, we got them all to the Cars at 2 1/2 P.M. C. Styer, John Styer and David Connard [sic] were put into the mail car on mattresses, and Sydney Brown, Will Wills, Conway and Clarke were able to go on the passenger cars. We housed them all at George Blight Brown's house at 9 1/2 P.M., where they were most kindly cared for, and after a refreshing supper, I took the Cars for home. At Spring Mill, Follen and my Irishman were waiting with the carriage, and soon landed me safely at home at a little after midnight.

June 2: Sunday.

Practiced in the forenoon. In the afternoon I went to Philadelphia to Geo. Blight Brown's to see the sick. Came up with the two Styers in the five o'clock train. Dave Conard remained Sunday, though the papers report them as having gone to Alexandria. Joseph has been promoted to 4th Sergeant, the place vacated by the discharge of Sydney Brown. He says they want to go as far as any other of the troops, and thinks he would like to have a brush with the Enemy. Visited Dave Connard [sic] and the Styers today, also many other patients. Not much war news, except that Jeff Davis has come to Richmond, the Capitol of the Confederate States.

June 3: Monday.

Practiced all day.

June 4: Tuesday.

Received a letter from Joseph by the morning mail. Still at Camp Montgomery on Sunday, though the papers report them as having gone to Alexandria. Joseph has been promoted to 4th Sergeant, the place vacated by the discharge of Sydney Brown. He says they want to go as far as any other of the troops, and thinks he would like to have a brush with the Enemy. Visited Dave Connard [sic] and the Styers today, also many other patients. Not much war news, except that Jeff Davis has come to Richmond, the Capitol of the Confederate States.

June 5: Wednesday.

No special news, but our troops are to move on Harper's Ferry in a few days.

June 6: Thursday.

The news today is that 16 regiments are to move from Chambersburgh on Harper's Ferry. Genl. McClellan is on his way from Grafton with a large force. The Enemy are concentrating at "Manassas Junction."<sup>lxxi</sup> There will be warm times tomorrow or next day. I have practiced a good deal today. Our beautiful two year old colt, which we used to call Edd, but now Grey Eagle, slipped in the yard and hurt his leg. We are all sitting around the table now at 9 P.M., mother and the girls sewing, Follen studying and myself writing and all talking about the war, and wondering if the 4th Regiment will be called away from their present Camp, to go into battle at Harper's Ferry or the

Manassas Junction.

June 7: Friday.

We got a letter from Joseph today, brought up by Andrew Hart, who has been there. Jos. says they have to nearly all be on duty at night now, as so many of the Companies are out as scouts at night, to see that the Enemy at Harper's Ferry does not escape by the Maryland side. He is very well and wrote his letter in tent No. 8 at midnight, while waiting to wake Pete Brown who is to have the next watch. He thinks they will have active service soon.

This evening after dark Samuel Corson brought a letter from Edward from the Norristown office. It was addressed to Joseph, but we read it. It was from Hong Kong. They were just ready to start up the River to Nankin[g]. He says if they go as far as they expect, it will be further than any armed American vessel has ever yet gone. It was a very interesting letter with much good advice to Joseph. Edward does not yet know that Joseph is in the Army. Carrie brought the letter upstairs and read it to Mother and myself. I was in bed with a kind of sick headache, having lain down only a few minutes before. Just as we finished the letter, I was sent for to see John Stemple's wife with vertigo, and just as mother and myself got into the carriage to go, Doctor Parke and Anne Harry came here to see the girls. It was very dark and rainy when we got home at 9 o'clock.

**Editor's note:** At this point in the diary is pasted a long newspaper article, "BIOLOGICAL NOTICE OF JOHN EVANS. Read at the Meeting of the Delaware Co. Institute of Science, May 3, 1862, By Dr. George Smith, President of the Institute."

June 20: Thursday.

9 P.M. Received a letter from Joseph today, also one last Monday, also two from Edward since I last wrote. Edward's last letter was the first that ever reported him sick. He is still in China, and has heard of no order to come home. Joseph's letter was written from Camp Montgomery (2 miles from Washington on the Barry Farm) last Sunday. I saw one at David Connard's [sic] today from Jos., also written last Monday. We learned by the Press today, that the Regiment has gone to Virginia, one mile from Alexandria. Since I last wrote, several small battles have taken place. Genl. Butler sent out a few thousand men, from Fortress Monroe, to clear away some rebel troops a few miles off. As it was after night, they by accident came together and mistaking each other for enemies, they began a fight in which several were killed; they then attacked a Battery at Great Bethel,<sup>lxxii</sup> and from some bad management were repulsed. Lieut. Grable and Major, or Col. Winthrop<sup>lxxiii</sup> were killed. This was near Vienna. Next an Ohio Regiment had gone out on the railroad from Alexandria about 12 miles and put down detachments of men to guard the road, and when they had but about 300 remaining in the cars, they came suddenly on a Battery, which the rebels had placed on the road. A murderous fire was opened on them, and before they could get away, 8 or 10 were killed and twenty or more wounded, &c. About one week since, the Enemy seeing that our Troops were about to surround them at Harper's Ferry, suddenly evacuated it falling back on Winchester and Manassas Junction. Yesterday General Lyle of Missouri overtook the rebel forces at Booneville, attacked and drove them off, killing a great number of them, [in] the Battle of

Boonesville, June 19, 1861. He also drove the Governor from Jefferson City and took military possession of that place.

The next move of our Troops will probably be towards Manassas Junction where the rebels are in great force, some say 30, others 50 thousand. If they do not evacuate as at Harper's Ferry, we will doubtless have a fierce battle within a week. It is a fearful thing to think of our boys going into such a conflict, and yet Joseph seems quite ready for it. He even talks some of going into the war for three years, if he can get a Lieutenancy as he is promised by Captain Cook. For the last two weeks the Rebels have been very busy shooting our Sentinels on their posts. It is quite dangerous to be on guard in Virginia. I hope our boys will not be put further in than they are at present.

Last Friday, June 14th, I attended John Cresson's wife, at James Cresson's in Germantown, in confinement. She had a son at 8 1/2 P.M., which she calls James Cresson Jr. This was the day of the evacuation of Harper's Ferry, or at least that we heard of it, and I wanted them to call it Harper, Ferry Cresson.

Nancy went to [the] City this afternoon to buy an oil cloth for the dining room. Miss Mallory took tea with us this evening.

June 23: Sunday.

We received a letter from Joseph yesterday in which he informs us that they moved from Camp Montgomery last 4th day, I think, down to two miles below Alexandria, right under the guns of Fort Ellsworth. Next day, Thursday, they were suddenly ordered to be ready to march with one day's provisions and 30 rounds of Cartridge. He wrote his letter while waiting [for] the order to march. He thinks they are to go to Fairfax Court House to disperse some rebels collected there. It is an anxious time with us now. It is thought the Rebels have 70 or 80,000 men at and near Manassas Junction, while we have not more perhaps than 30,000 on the Virginia side of the Potomac. Joseph thinks the fight will come soon, but says he is not at all afraid. Nancy and myself went down to James Cresson's last evening to see Mrs. J. Cresson and Baby. They are both doing well. Met Mr. Charles Jackson's ship there, had a pleasant evening and got home before eleven. W. Cresson showed us a letter from Joseph, nearly like our own. They had a very severe march from Camp Montgomery 16 miles. Many of them gave out and had to be taken up by the baggage wagons of which they had 26 four-horse ones. Joseph stood it well and after a good sleep all night on the ground without a cover, feels all right.

June 26: Wednesday.

Have had letter from Joseph. He has been in Alexandria with a file of five men. There were five taken from each Company by a Sergeant to patrol. They have to search every man, woman and child, who attempt[s] to cross the lines.

July 1: Monday.

News has reached us this morning that the picket of 3 of the 4th Reg. was attacked about 3 miles from Alexandria while on guard on Saturday night by 13 Rebels. Our men returned the fire killing one Rebel and wounding two others. They brought the dead body of one of the Rebels back with them, also several guns, pistols, &c. One of our men died in an hour after returning to Camp and another, Llewelyn Rhumer, is badly

wounded. In Joseph's letter of today he says, Captain Amey<sup>lxxiv</sup> thought he saw (while out on a reconnoitering walk) last Saturday about 5,000 Rebels within 5 miles of Alexandria, and hastened back to inform the Col. They were all suddenly ordered [to come with 40 rounds cartridge, but no enemy appeared. Jos. also said in his letter that one day last week Sergeant Peter Brown, himself, and two of Ellsworth's Zouaves got liberty to pass the lines. They walked into the country about 4 miles, stopped at a house to get a drink, were politely invited in and dine, which they accepted, then spent an our or two on the piazza, &c., after which they returned to Camp. Now this was exceedingly hazardous. It is only two weeks since, Captain Kelly and a Sergeant and Corporal were enticed into a house, in the same region, and then pounced upon by the Rebels and carried to Richmond where they are now close prisoners. I do not know how it is that Joseph is so anxious for adventure. He was quite desirous to be on guard last Saturday night, after the Rebels were seen by Amey. It is fortunate for him that it was not his turn as it was that guard which was attacked.

July 3: Wednesday.

A day or two ago, General Banks, now Commander in Baltimore, seized Marshal Kane and the Commissioner of Police and sent them to Fort McHenry as a prisoner. They found a great quantity of concealed arms and ammunition. Banks has now placed armed men all through Baltimore. There has been an extensive conspiracy among the Secessionists of Baltimore to do mischief. It is no light work that we have on our hands, to blockade all the ports from Norfolk to Mexico, and the whole line of country from Baltimore to Council Bluffs. The Rebels are active and are shooting our guards, and making attacks on the Union men whenever they are defenseless. Now for two days no man can pass the lines of our Army in or out. The pickets of our Army and the Rebel army are now within sight of each other. At least 100,000 men are now within 30 miles of Washington in Virginia, preparing to grapple into each other in deadly conflict. It is thought that perhaps the move will be made on the 4th day of July. Some think nothing will be done till Congress have met (on the 4th) and sanctioned the acts of the President and recommended a speedy prosecution of the war. I look for important events within a day or two. We await the coming of our Paper from the City every morning (The Press) with great anxiety. Yesterday evening Doctor Wm. Ramsey came down from Norristown to bid us "good bye." He has just been admitted as a Surgeon in the U. States Army and is to leave for Washington this morning at 11 o'clock. He staid till after 9 o'clock and as we went out to see him start for home. we saw the new and splendid Comet in the N. West. This Comet came upon Astronomers unexpectedly. It was not predicted, and still more, it was not seen approaching in the distance but was bright and full before the naked eyes of all before a single Astronomer's glass had detected it. It was not announced until day before yesterday. Yesterday at noon the air changed from very warm to cool, and before night it was so cool that I had to wear my overcoat. It is very cool this morning. Does the Comet cause this cool weather and also herald the coming fight between the armies? So the people say. I am very anxious to see the papers this morning and will close till I see what they relate.

Noon. The papers give a brief telegraphic account of a battle at Williamsport<sup>lxxv</sup> in Virginia. Just before daylight on July 2nd., General Patterson forded the Potomac near Williamsport with about 5,000 men and engaged the enemy who was stationed about 3

miles from the river and completely routed them. Genl. P. had only one man killed and several wounded.

July 4: Thursday.

A most beautiful morning. Isaac (Shaw) went away yesterday. He thinks he will quit working, his health not being good now. Dan (my Irishman) and Follen and Benjn. Mach, my tenant, have gone for a load of hay, down to the Lentz lot. The girls and their mother are all anxious for the news from the war and impatient for the mail. After visiting a patient I called at the offices at 9 o'clock and got a letter from Edward, and one from Joseph, and one for Caroline from aunt Harriet Foulke. Joseph writes from Camp Hale in Virginia and says they are very much engaged. They have to keep a great many on guard every night. The outer pickets were fired on again since the night when Llewelyn Rhumer was shot. Jesse Pierce and George Henderson and others are anxious to go around [the] far outer pickets. The rules are so strict now that no one can pass their lines.

Congress meets today. They are expected to sanction all that has been done by Lincoln, and also to appropriate largely money to carry on the war.

Edward writes from Shanghai about 20th April. He expects to go up the river to Nankin [Nanking] and be away a couple of months. It was a pleasant letter and as he says nothing about his cough and cold; they have likely gotten better. He is collecting an assortment of Chinese and Japanese seed.

July 7: Sunday.

Evening, nine and 1/2 P.M. I have just finished a letter to Edward in which I told him of Joseph having gone to the war. It is only two weeks until Jos.'s time will be out, but there is a great battle impending and I thought it would be better to let Edward know that he had gone so that if met with a reverse he might be partially prepared for it. I have just read my letter to Edward to Carrie, Tacie and their mother, and now I will go to bed, anxious to hear tomorrow of the war news.

July 14: Sunday.

Afternoon, 5 P.M. Very dull cloudy afternoon; rained hard about half an hour yesterday; rained a little this morning. The afternoon has been very quiet here. No stir of any kind. A few birds hop among the branches and occasionally twitter in song, but else all is still. Bertha, Frannie and Ida took the old grey mare "Jennie," soon after dinner and drove over to William Wills' to see Anne. Follen and Susan sat about and read for a while; then Helen came to see Susan and they went into the serving room to read and talk. Mother and little Mary went to bed. Carrie and Tacie are at N[ew] Hope, Edward in China and Joseph in Virginia, at Camp Hale, near Alexandria. And here I am in the office writing. I was practicing until three o'clock. During the last week we were looking daily for a battle at Manassas Junction, but it did not come. Indeed we hardly had the least news from the Troops in that part of Virginia near to Washington. All telegraphic communication has been cut off by order of Genl. Scott. But we have had some intelligence from Western Missouri, where Col. Zeigel<sup>lxxvi</sup> of our side fought the Rebel Troops with great success, also from Western Virginia where Col. Morris, under Genl. McClellan, fought them near Beverly, routing them completely. Captain Thomas,

the French Lady who captured the St. Nicholas steamboat while on its way from Baltimore two weeks ago, was captured in turn by a police officer while coming up the river to repeat his exploit. He had, I assume, men with him who were also captured and placed in Fort McHenry.

Congress has already passed Bills justifying the acts of the Administration in relation to the war and made appropriations called for in order to carry it on.

On Friday last I went with Samuel M. Corson to the funeral of Uncle Ammos [sic] Corson; we started at 4 1/2 o'clock in the morning and arrived at his house two miles beyond Newtown at 8 o'clock. Dr. Edward Livezey accompanied us in the carriage as far as Newtown, then left to go in the stage to Attleborough. Uncle was buried at Southampton Baptist burying ground. I saw a great many of our relatives there, but they look old and weatherbeaten, at least those of them whom I knew when I was a young man. We left the church yard about 4 o'clock and came to Gilbert Ely's and took tea, then [went] home at sunset. He was the youngest child of my grandfather, who had eleven children, all of whom were living when this one was 50 years old, and all of whom lived to be about 70 years of age. Uncle Ammos [sic] was 75, and Uncle Joshua, who is now the sole survivor, is more than 80. He was at the funeral and seemed very strong, though somewhat tremulous in his hands. Uncle Ammos [sic] was buried near his parents and his brothers and sisters.

We had a letter from Joseph yesterday. [He is] still at Camp Hale near Alexandria. We expect him home tomorrow next, if not next Saturday. Some say the Rgt. will come then.

July 21: Sunday.

Afternoon. Rec'd. a letter from Edward yesterday, written April 30th at Shanghai. [He] expects to sail in a few hours up the river to Nankin [sic]. The Hartford, Saginaw and ----- all will go. The Hartford will then remain at Nankin while the Commodore goes in one of the small vessels of the river to other places. Have not yet heard of the order of recall.

McClellan gained a great victory over the Rebels at Laurel Hill in Western Virginia last Sunday. Genl. Garnet,<sup>lxxvii</sup> the Rebel leader, was killed.

Last Tuesday our Army 60,000 strong moved from before Washington in Va. to Fairfax. The enemy vacated it. There the Army pushed on, and at Bull Run 1000 of our men came on a masked battery. After a fight of several hours, they were compelled to withdraw with the loss of several killed and wounded. Our Rgt. should be mustered out of service today, but as they are forming a part of Col. Franklin's Brigade, and are now with the Army beyond Fairfax near Bull Run, it is not likely they will be allowed to come home until after the battle at Manassas Junction (The attack at Bull Run took place on Thursday last) which is expected to come off today. Genl. McDowell, who is in command of the Army there, has been reconnoitering since the Bull Run skirmish, and constructing his forces and it is supposed will give them battle today. As the Rebels re-entrenched and have a great deal of preparation, and intend to make a decisive stand there, and have a very large force, the battle will be a terrible one. I hope our boys will escape. It is awful to think that they may now be struggling for their lives or be maimed or dying on the battle field. We will wait in hope. I have been practicing a great deal the past week. [I have] several new and good families.

Troops are rapidly tending toward Washington from N[ew] York, Pa. and all the Eastern States. Cairo and Missouri take those men raised in the Western States. The struggle is now going on through a great part of Missouri. Western Va. is now nearly cleared of the secession or Rebel Forces which were sent over there under Gov. Wise<sup>lxxviii</sup> [to] put down the Union sentiment.

I was in Philad. last evening to see Cousin Hannah Rex who is poorly. There was nothing new in the Evening Bulletin from the seat of war. No person can get a pas[s] to go from Washington into Va., except to be recommended by a Senator to Genl. Mansfield, so but few can go, and we have no news from the army movements at all, save that sent by a person appointed to examine all telegraphic dispatches. So we know not what has been done since yesterday morning. It is now dark on Sunday evening.

July 22: Monday.

Noon. I went this morning to meet brother William in the case of Mr. Whittall's grandchild, Annie Foster, at his house. After examining the patient we went into a little room to consult, when I asked W[illiam] if he had heard any news from the seat of war; he said yes, he had the "Press." There had been a terrible fight 9 hours with great loss of life on our side. This was sad news to me, as we could not know who was killed. He gave me the paper and I soon glanced all over the various dispatches, but could see no account of our troops only that after the firing ceased at 3 o'clock P.M. (having begun at six A.M.), Col. Heintzeman [Heintzelman]<sup>lxxix</sup> had advanced toward Manassas Junction and was there throwing shells into that place. The fight took place at Bull Run, the scene of the conflict on the 18th. We know only that a terrible battle has been fought, that many of our people have been killed. I have felt sad and tremulous today. We can learn nothing more until we get the Bulletin at 5 P.M. at Norristown or Conshohocken. I am very busy, and so continue to keep my mind from foreboding ill news. We will wait and take what is in store for us, as patiently as can. Poor Joseph I hope is saved.

(Evening). Follen has just come from the coach shop at Yerkes Corner with the news that two of the Schalls and Captn. Walter Cook are killed and that our army before Manassas had a terrible defeat yesterday. Nancy and our nephew Sam'l. M. Corson have gone to Norristown to hear the news. When I heard what Follen said, I went on to the front piazza and told the girls, Caroline, Tacie, Susan and the little ones. They were deeply grieved. We were all agonized. Follen and myself then went to Mr. Whittall's to see the child. On arriving there Mr. Whittall came to me in the sitting room to speak of the sad news. Our troops, he said, had been utterly routed with a loss of nearly three thousand, besides an immense number of prisoners. In a few minutes Mrs. Cook came in, and so I learned that the reports of the death of her son, Captn. Cook and Genl. Schall's sons was true. Our Regt. it appears had left to come home from Bull Run four hours before the last battle began, and it is reported that they will be in Norristown tomorrow. Geo. Blight Brown telegraphed to Norristown this morning [that the] 4th Regt. was all cut up. This alarmed the whole town. Genl. Schall's family was nearly crazy as they had 4 sons in that Regt., and so Genl. Schall went to Phila(delphia) in the cars. This gave rise to the report of the deaths. The Zouaves that were in the same Brigade with our 4th Regt. were literally cut to pieces, it is said. We will wait for further and more reliable reports tomorrow. Mother and Sam have returned and confirm the reports above written. Crowds of anxious men are to be seen at every corner discussing



the events. Out at Plymouth as Fol[len] and I returned they stopped us and we had to tell that we had heard. Sam says all Norristown seems now to be ready to arm the slaves. The Rebels had a Regt. of Negroes, it is said. It is now 10 P.M. and they have all gone upstairs but myself. I will retire and a(wait) the events of tomorrow.

July 27: Saturday.

Every day since I had last wrote has shown that our disaster was greatly exaggerated. It was only a small portion of the army that fled in confusion, but we lost several hundred men, many valuable horses, much artillery, a deal of baggage, baggage wagons, ammunitions, &c.

Reports injurious to our Regt. were freely circulated during nearly all last week, on account of their leaving the ground a few hours before the battle began. But as it became better understood, as we had more reliable reports, they were generally exonerated from blame.

Genl. McDowell did not manage well, I think; his reserve forces were too far away. It was an awful battle. Every day last week we expected our Regiment home, but would hear nothing from them except some slight reference in the newspapers. On Thursday we heard that they arrived at Harrisburgh. People having sons, husbands, &c. in the Regt. wended their way to Norristown every day in hope to see them come. On Saturday they began to collect there early, and continued to come during the whole day. Some of the volunteers, Geo. N. Corson, Joseph Read, and two others had come down on Friday night. They report that our men could not get their pay for a day or two and would not likely be down today. But about dark, a dispatch was rec'd. from them that they were just about leaving Harrisburgh, and should be in Norristown at, or soon after, midnight. We had given them up for today, when Jos. Albertson and Sam and Ellwood Corson came over to tell us that they had heard of the dispatch, and that they would go up and wait for Joseph. (We had rec'd. a letter from Joseph in the morning that he was at Harrisburgh and did not know when they would come home as they were not yet paid off.)

At 10 P.M. I took Dan, my hired man, and rode to Norristown to meet Jos[eph] at 11 1/2 o'clock. Sam Corson came into my brother William's office and told me a telegram had been rec'd. that our Regt. was at Reading. I concluded to wait no longer so drove home leaving Dan to come home as best he could. As I left Norristown, hundreds of men, women and children thronged the pavements, and military men and firemen paraded the streets, preceded by "Bands of Music," and even as one cannon boomed from the Court House Hill. At Bridgeport, where the Reading cars were expected, hundreds waited their arrival. I got home about midnight and told mother and Carrie and Tacie, who were "waiting up" for Joseph, that he would not be down yet for some hours; on hearing which they concluded to lie down with their clothes on until he should come. I went to bed and slept soundly until just about daylight, when I heard Nancy step across the floor and go to the front window, (south window of the gable). She had heard the carriage. In an instant she cried out, "Joseph has come. I see him there, poor dear fellow!" "I see him." In an instant I got up, and Carrie, Tacie, Bertha, Frannie and little Mary were all chattering and hurrying out into the open space at the head of the stairs to meet Jos[eph]. It was a joyful meeting. He kissed us all, and then turned to look out the window, at the lawn, he exclaimed, "Oh! how beautiful the yard does look. I never saw it

so beautiful, oh! it is splendid." His mother wanted him to go to bed, as he had traveled the whole night, and had tasted no food since morning, but he preferred to go down and wash himself. He then laid down till breakfast time. I have said nothing of Susan in this meeting with Jos[eph]. She was not at home. On Saturday (yesterday) her gd. mother, Aunt Susan and Uncle Jesse had come down to go to Norristown to meet Jos[eph], and our girls had gone with them and Follen, but after waiting until nearly tea time, had to come away without even hearing when he would come, and after taking tea with us they went home, taking Susan along with them. But as they went home they met Jos. Albertson, who told them he had just come from Norristown and that Jos(eph) was expected at midnight. So I expect they will bring Susan down to meeting [him] this morning, and they will all be here to see Jos[eph]. Noon. I returned from practicing and found the Gwynedd folks (gd. mother, Isaac and Susan) and daughter Susan, all standing with Joseph in the yard under the trees. They all seemed most happy that they had all gotten together again.

July 28, 1861: Sunday.

Evening. After dinner Wm. Corson and myself went to Rees Conard to see a patient; from there to Flour Town to meet Dr. Newberry in consultation. Got home about 6 P.M. Just as we got home, brother Alan, his son Dr. Joseph Corson of Ohio and his two sons-in-law Wm. Richie and Isaac Styer came to see Joseph. He had been in bed since noon, but mother ran up and called him before the others got into the house so that he was with them quickly. They were on their way to take Joseph and Richie to the cars, so they staid but half an hour or so. After two, Clarence Cresson came and spent the evening. Aunt Martha and her girls had called to see Joseph at noon and mother and myself walked out to see her after Joseph. (Dr. Joseph Corson, mentioned above, had a narrow escape from the Secessionists. After the attack on the Ohio troops at Vienna, the parents of some of the wounded men prevailed on Joseph to come to Alexandria to attend to them. He had been there till the Army moved out week before last. He went along and during the battle, while he was engaged in one of the field hospitals, several surgeons were made prisoners, but he escaped to the woods and after traveling all night arrived at Washington on Sunday).

July 29: Monday.

Joseph and Carrie and Tacie went to Philad. to see their aunt Lydia Bacon, who is very near her death and is very fond of Joseph, but has had a great fear that she would not live till he got back. They returned in the 4 1/2 o'clock train. They say aunt Lydia is quite ill, they hardly think she will live more than a day or two. She was pleased to see them all, but could not talk much to them. I practiced all day. In the evening cousin Bradford, his wife and Cordelia Holt came to see Joseph and soon after, Carrol Tyson came and staid till after 10 o'clock. They all seem to me much attached to Joseph.

July 30: Tuesday.

Practiced all day. "Mother" went to town in the early train to see "Aunt Lydia," her sister. Jos. and Follen took her to the cars. Joseph and Carrie went after dinner to "Uncle Jesse's" to see grand mother and "Aunt Sue". Ellwood and Charley Styer both in the office. Charles has not yet recovered from a local paralysis, paralysis of Portio Dura

of the right side of face, which occurred while ill at Washington. He cannot see to read but about half an hour at a time. Andy Wills and Clarence Wills (the latter was at the war with Joseph and messed with him) came to see Joseph this evening, and little Annie came along to play with Bertha and Frannie. Mother did not come back.

There is considerable fear with many persons that the Rebels will attack Washington. They are in immense force at Manassas, about 27 miles from Washington, and since our defeat at Bull Run, they have occupied the country again to within half a dozen miles of Washington. Our 3 months volunteers are now leaving. This withdrawal of 75,000 men has been looked to by the Rebels as affording a good time for them to attack us, but as new Regiments are pouring in as fast as the old one's leave, they will probably be deterred. Genl. McClellan, who now commands the department of Washington, and manages the forces lately under Genl. McDowell, is soon at Washington examining the condition of the army. We hope much from his generalship.

August 2: Friday.

There has been nothing new in war matters. The troops continue to rush to Washington from Pa. and N. York in good numbers of regiments. Other states, too, send a number. The three months men are now nearly all away. I was in Philadelphia yesterday and found them every where; they had just returned during the past week. They were terribly weatherbeaten. I called in Warnich St. above Thompson to see Abby and Ellen Dickinson, two old cousins of mine. The former is about 80, the other but a little under. Most excellent people they have been. There were 4 girls, two of whom married many years ago, but those two were single, and have made a little money. It will perhaps see them through. They were very glad to see me. It called them back to 50 years ago. I also called to see Lydia Bacon (wife's sister). She is near her end with consumption. She is very patient and kind.

This evening I have read in "the Press" an order from Secretary of War, directing Col. Franklin to set free the Slaves who are in the jail of Alexandria, put them to work on the fortifications and pay them for their work; and to do the same by others that may come in. This is an important order. It looks to me like an invitation to all the slaves to come - good!

Yesterday young George Reiff of our 4th Regiment was buried from his father's house. He had stood the whole campaign well but when returned to Harrisburgh he got into a row and was shot. He died in two days after. Joseph did not go to the funeral. He feels languid and weak since his return and I advised him not to go. Many of the men nearly gave out in their long, hot walk to the cemetery. Quite a number of the returned volunteers are sick. Excessively hot today. Alan Wood Jr., Charles Lukens and Andrew Wills spent the evening here with Joseph and the girls.

August 3: Saturday.

Practiced in the forenoon and till 3 P.M., then went to see cousin John Evans, who is poorly with consumption. Found him at home. Spent about 3 hours on his front porch with him talking of the war, races of men, &c. &c. Took tea and at 8 P.M. left for home, but called on my way to see Doctor Silas Packe, who has been ill for a few days with Iliac pain. Home a little after 10 P.M. Dr. Comfort and Mr. Augustus Schwartz here on a visit to Joseph, who was up at Doctor James Tyson's, at Gwynedd, himself and Captain

Cook being invited by Dr. Tyson's son Carrol, to spent this evening there.

Genl. Fremont [is] preparing to take several regiments from St. Louis to Birds Point, to repel the Rebels.

August 4: Sunday.

Very warm. No war news today. I practiced until noon and paid two visits since. This afternoon we have all been at home, reading on the front porch since 3 P.M.

August 10: Saturday.

Morning, before breakfast. No war news very near us this week. Genl. Lyon<sup>lxxx</sup> and Genl. Cox<sup>lxxxi</sup> have each had a fight with the enemy in Missouri and routed them with a loss of a few men to the Rebels. Troops are pouring in rapidly and quietly to Washington and not a word is received from there in relation to the disposition of them. Genl. McClellan has everything under the strictest discipline. Day before yesterday 36 pirates were brought to Philadelphia and put in prison. It appears that a few days before they had under a mistake, supposing the warship St. Lawrence to be a merchantman, they had fired upon her, when just out of Charleston Harbor. The St. Lawrence kept quiet until she had fired several shots and came within speaking distance, when she opened a whole broadside and in less than 10 minutes the pirates vessel sunk to the bottom of the sea.

Day before yesterday Joseph, Caroline, Tacie and their mother and myself attended the funeral of Noah Brown of Norristown, one who had gone through the three months service, side by side with Joseph, a sergeant in the same company. He was like Joseph, a graduate in pharmacy. Poor fellow, the toils and privations of the last two weeks which were dreadfully severe, were too much for him. He told Joseph, as he came from Harrisburgh exhausted by want of food, and suffering intensely from headache and sickness, that if he did not get some place to lie down soon he could not stand it any longer.

Evening, 10 o'clock. Practiced until 3 o'clock then went to Norristown to meet Some members of the cabinet. We have concluded to disband. Alan W. Corson, Capt'n. Walter Cook, Mr. Carrol Tyson, Samuel Thomas and myself and young Herbert Cushman constituted the meeting. Concluded to have one more meeting on the last Saturday of this month.

After tea, Capt'n. Cook and Mr. Tyson came to see us, and staid till a few minutes of 10 o'clock. Joseph and he had many jokes to tell of their 3 months service.

The French "Prince Napoleon," son of Jerome Bonaparte<sup>lxxxii</sup> and cousin to the emperor, is in this Country on a "Bridal Tour," and two days ago left Washington and passed with an escort from our lines to the enemy's camp at Manassas. He asked to pass our lines but was expected back the same night. He has not returned, and some uneasiness is felt at it, particularly as both the French and English Ministers at Washington have protested against our blockade. It is feared the Prince is in conference with the Rebels.

August 12: Monday.

Morning. The Prince has returned from Manassas. He was earnestly pressed by

Beauregard,<sup>lxxxiii</sup> Johnson,<sup>lxxxiv</sup> &c., to go to Richmond to see Davis<sup>lxxxv</sup> but he would not do it.

August 13: Tuesday.

We have reliable details this morning of a battle fought last Saturday in Missouri by Genl. Lyon with 7000 men against the Rebel Genl. Ben McCullough<sup>lxxxvi</sup> with 23,000, in which Genl. Lyon was killed, and Genl. Sigel [Sigel], after capturing all the enemy's tents, &c. &c., fell back to Springfield in order the next day. We lost several hundred men. The death of Genl. Lyon has produced a general sadness. He was a man of great courage and military skills, and went into this battle almost certain that he must be defeated and probably killed, but knew that he must hazard the battle to hide his weakness.

August 23: Friday.

No battle since the 10th. Every Regt., Company and parts of Companies that are scattered about in cities and towns are ordered at once to Washington as an attack is feared from Virginia. Gov. Letcher,<sup>lxxxvii</sup> the Rebel Governor from eastern Virginia, having called out all the Militia of the State to aid the forces of Jeff Davis.

Saturday, 17th, Captn. Cook spent the evening here and took tea with us. He and Joseph and "Jam. Ell," Carrol Tyson, Willie Wharton and several others were fishing in the Schuylkill all day. I was not at home in the evening, being called to see and attend to Lewis Albertson who was thrown from his light wagon and rendered insensible by the concussion. Captn. gave very interesting accounts of his adventures in the Bull Run battle, and he and Joseph entertained the girls and their mother in that way until after 10 P.M. - written on 23rd.

Joseph has sold his lime business and has begun to study medicine Thursday, August 22, 1861.

Yesterday Captn. Cook and Joseph went to Jason Cushman in the afternoon, then to P.R. Freas' and took tea and spent the evening.

August 27: Tuesday.

Mother went to the city yesterday to see sister Lydia who is now very ill with consumption. This morning a note came to us from mother that "Aunt Lydia" died last night at 2 o'clock. Poor dear Lydia, she was a lovely woman, kind, amiable, cheerful. She has gone from us early, leaving only one child, "little Nan," now nearly 8 years old. Thus in one year we lost "Uncle George, Charley Bacon and Aunt Lydia."

About two weeks since Mr. Pierce Butler was arrested and sent to Fort Lafayette. Since then the Police Commissioner of Baltimore, the Mayor of Washington, and several Rebel agents have been sent there. Several Democratic Secession papers in N. York and Pa. have been stopped within a week. The government is now putting forth its whole power, and "who is not for us is against us" is the motto, regardless of latitude.

September 1, 1861: Sunday.

There has been the greatest censure cast upon the 4th Regiment, Pa. volunteers, the Regiment in which Joseph was, on account of their term of service having expired on

Saturday, August 20th, when they were at Centreville, and their having refused to accede to the request of General McDowell that they should stay two weeks longer, which they refused to do, and left for home early on the morning of the 21st, only a few hours before the battle began, (and as said by Genl. McDowell in his official report) "to the roar of the Enemy's cannon." Of the whole regiment there were only 15 men who volunteered to stay, of them Joseph was one. Every kind of taunt and insult has been published in the papers about them. Some attempt has also been made to defend their action but it will not do. When Col. Hartranft and Capt. Cook found that the men would not go, they resigned and Hartranft got a situation as Aide to Col. Franklin, and Cook became aid to Genl. Hunter,<sup>lxxxviii</sup> and both went through the battle without being wounded. Joseph receives the highest praise from his officers and also from many of the men for his courage throughout the whole campaign. Quarter Master Yerkes told uncle William yesterday that he thought that Joseph did more scouting on his own account than any other man in the Regiment. Cook and Hartranft gave him high praise. George Corson told me that he did not think Joseph was the least afraid at any time. The cause of this refusal of the 4th Regt. to go forward is clearly trouble to the officers and I am investigating it and will publish a few articles in relation to it, so as to place the Odium on the guilty instigators, the captains of the recusant companies. Last week I published a short article which I append.

#### **Fourth Pennsylvania Regiment.**

(Correspondence of the Press)

NORRISTOWN, August 26, 1861.

There has been so much censure cast upon the Fourth Regiment, Pennsylvania volunteers, on account of their leaving the army the next day after the expiration of their term of service, and only a few hours before the battle of Bull Run, (although the men of that regiment knew nothing of the coming battle), that I feel desirous that the men who were willing to remain for the length of time asked for by Gen. McDowell should have due credit for their valor and patriotism. When Col. Hartranft received the order from Gen. McDowell, in which he complimented the regiment on the important services rendered by it, and in which he discharged it from further service, but requested that they would stay two weeks longer, Col. Hartranft had a copy of the order sent to each of the captains of the regiment, with a request that it should be read to the companies, and the decision of the men in relation to it be reported. For reasons not known to us some of the captains, it is said, did not read the order to their companies, or, at least, did not test them in regard to a longer stay, but reported none willing. Captain Snyder, whose company was from Centre county, reported six men as willing. Captain Walter H. Cook, Company K, of Norristown, also read the order, and asked those who were willing to comply with Gen. McDowell's request to advance in front of the line. The following officers and men at once responded: First Lieutenant H.K. Weand; Orderly Sergeant, Daniel M. Yost; Sergeant, Joseph K. Corson; Corporal, Wm. Potts; privates, James Pierce and Jos. Johnson. When the

regiment left for Alexandria two members from Captain Taylor's company remained on the field and witnessed the battle. So it appears that Col. Hartranft, Captain Cook and six men, Captain Snyder and six men, and two from Captain's company were willing to go forward without any reference to having gone through their whole term of service and been discharged. Now, as we are intimately acquainted with many of the men of the Fourth Regiment, and know that scores of those who did not offer to continue in service are men of the most undoubted courage and patriotism, it would be interesting to know the cause of so singular a result.

ENQUIRER.

There was one battle last week, a surprise of Tyler's regiment while they were at breakfast. They lost nearly two hundred men in cutting their way through.

A great many people are much afraid that Washington will yet be taken, but I am informed today that we have 115,000 men at Washington alone.

September 3: Tuesday.

Genl. Butler who commanded a fleet which left Fortress Monroe a few days since, has returned with 715 prisoners, whom he took at Fort Hatteras and Fort Clarke. He battered the Forts for a day or two, when they capitulated in full. Commodore Barron was Commander of the Rebel Forces. He only a ten months since was a captain in our navy, and resigned to go into the Rebel Army. There is great rejoicing with our people everywhere, as we did not lose one man in the action, and this gives us control of the whole N. Carolina coast. The enemy can no longer get up through Alabama Sound and the dismal Swamp Canal to Norfolk.

September 6: Wednesday.

Little Lentz (or "Lenzie" as Jos. calls him) has been staying here with Joseph for two days. He is Marshal Lentz and was with Joseph in Co. K. at the war. He and Jos. were out hunting money for me today, but got none. Today's paper gives indications of a coming battle.

The armies are facing each other in Virginia opposite Washington. Our line [is] the river and theirs is right in front of them and within sight.

I am practicing all day, everyday. Money is hard to collect. Corn 65 cents per Bushel, here in the country by retail, but only 52 cents in [the] city.

B. Harry and myself went to see John Evans today and found him very poorly. As usual he was up in the cemetery reading. He is very weak, can scarcely walk up there. When there, he lies on a bench upon his back and reads some "light work." We spent a couple of hours, took tea and got home at 9 P.M.

Marshal Lentz, who got acquainted with Joseph while out with the 4th Regt., has been staying here with him since Tuesday last. "Emily and Hannah" are also here.

For a whole week we have expected a battle daily, but all is quiet at Washington. We have no report at all, except that the Rebels are in great force close to our lines. We have an immense force from 125 to 200,000 reported. The utmost vigilance is exercised in arresting Secession emissaries among us. They are imprisoned in the Forts as fast as arrested. The news from Western Virginia and from Missouri are encouraging now. At

this time last week it was impossible. Since the taking of Hatteras Fort, the N. Carolina Union men are taking heart to show their true feelings by coming in and taking the Oath of Allegiance. They are coming by hundreds, it is said.

September 8: Sunday.

We had a letter from Edward yesterday dated Hong-Kong, June 25th, in which he says, they have heard of the taking of Fort Sumpter. They have not yet heard of an Order to come home. Mother and the girls seem somewhat distressed because he says that surgeon Holmes wishes to exchange plans with him, so that he may come home sooner than if he continues where he is. They are afraid Edward will then stay longer.

Charles Styer, Joseph and Ellwood are all studying away earnestly now, or at least were last week. I see by the paper of today that Genl. McClellan has issued an order that the soldiers shall observe the Sabbath. Men and horses shall have it as a day of rest and devotion.

"Mother" and all the children, Hannah Foulke and Emily Bacon are in the room talking and reading (Sunday evening 8 o'clock). Frank Bacon who is engaged to Hannah spent the day here, and went to the cars again at 6 o'clock.

Tomorrow morning Follen is to begin school again at the University, and I declare I scarcely know how I am to get the money to send him. The tenants did not pay me last Saturday as they should have done. It is hard to collect money now, and my family is so large and expensive I scarcely know how to make both ends meet although we have an income of \$1000 per year from rents and interest besides my practice and the farm.

8 P.M. Kentucky has tried to be neutral thus far, and was not willing that we should take our armies across the state. Last week the Tennessee Rebels marched into Kentucky and occupied Hickman and Columbus and we immediately took possession of Paducah, so that now, things must come to open war there. The legislature is in session there now and if they go for the Union, all will be well. If not, "war to the knife," must ensue speedily.

In my part of our Country, in my little County, town and even in small places as Conshohocken, Flower Town, Chestnut Hill, &c., there are recruiting stations. Camps [are] also at Norristown, Chestnut Hill, Germantown, Falls of Schuylkill, &c. It is so over this whole country. As yet, there has been no drafting, but many think it will come soon. As soon as 15 or twenty men are recruited they are sworn in and sent on to Washington to fill up some company.

September 13: Friday.

We have news from Western Virginia, Genl. Rozecrans<sup>lxxxix</sup> attacked the forces of Genl. Floyd, the ex-Cabinet Minister and Robber, and defeated him after a hard fought battle at Ganley's Creek. Floyd had a strong position perfectly guarded in the rear and sides and with masked batteries in front, but he was driven from his position.

In Missouri too we are doing well. Many Traitors have been arrested in the Loyal States since last Sunday. The one causing most excitement here is that of James Wall,<sup>xc</sup> a Lawyer of Burlington, N. Jersey, a son of the late Genl. D. Wall, one of Jersey's favorites. He resisted the Marshall, but it was of no avail. It produced intense excitement in Burlington yesterday. Hannah and Emily, Nancy's sisters, left for home this afternoon.

We see by the paper today that John Adams, one of the Pacific Squadron, left



Hong Kong for home July 6th. So we hope that the Hartford (Edward's Ship) left a few days after.

Our school began again last Monday week. We have a smaller school than usual, namely, Sarah Ellis, Helen Marcus and Ida Corson, Ezra, Sarah, Charles and Harvey Comfort, Sallie Mack, Annie Wills and our 4 children, Susan, Bertha, Frances and Mary. Follen entered the Junior Class of the University of Pa. in Philadelphia last Monday morning.

9 o'clock P.M. Mother has been sewing all this evening at Susan's dress to get her ready to pay a visit to Pattie Brinton, beyond West Chester, Pa. tomorrow morning. I have been writing letters to Capt. Snyder and Chamberlain about the Bull Run affair, setting down my days work, and now writing in my diary, while Jos[eph], Caroline, Tacie, Follen and Andy and Clarence Wills are having a game of cards close at my elbow. It is now nearly 10 and so I will be off to bed in hope that tomorrow will bring news of a victory over the Rebels.

September 14: Saturday.

Practiced much today. Rec'd. a letter from Professor Carson in reply to one of mine of two days ago. He tenders to Joseph (my son) free tickets to two courses of Lectures at the Medical Department of the University of Pa. The following is the correspondence:

Maple Hill, Thursday, Sep.

12<sup>h</sup>/61

My Dear Doctor.

The time for Lectures will soon be here again. I shall have three and my Brother two students to send you if two of them do not as Medical Cadets. Allow me here to say to you, that neither of us has ever taken a student, but with the express understanding that he would attend the University lectures and graduate. We have had nearly thirty, each having nearly the same number, and nearly all have graduated. All mine and nearly all his. Now in those days of rewards and promotions for "meritorious services," do you not think I deserve the very moderate compliment from each of the Professors, of a ticket (for two courses) for my son who is already a graduate of Pharmacy of Philadelphia College, and who served, if not with distinction, at least bravely and honorably as a Sergeant in the 4th Regt., Pa. Volunteers, being one of the six in Capt. Cook's company, who at Bull Run volunteered for any service that Genl. McDowell might require of them. You will doubtless say that this is "fishing for a compliment," of a substantial character. I confess it is a rather novel mode of proceeding, but in as much as I shall send them all whether you bestow the compliment or not, I will be truly obliged to you, if at your next meeting with your Fellows, you will lay this before them, and afterwards drop me a line in relation to it. Believe me as ever,

Respectfully,

Hiram Corson.

The Reply of Doctor Carson.

Philad. Sep. 12, 1861

My Dear Doctor. Your communication, of this morning, has been rec'd. and in reply to it I assure you it will gratify me much to serve you in the matter spoken of, as well as any other that you may urge. I can assure you that your son will be rec'd. on your own terms and if I become as much interested in him as I did in Edwin [Edward], it will afford me much satisfaction. We have fair prospects of a class in spite of secession, which I only hope will get its quietus through the strong arm of the government.

Very truly yours.

J. Carson.

September 15: Sunday.

Joseph and self went to James Cresson's last evening after 5 o'clock. Pretty long Ride after having been in the carriage all day. Visited 17 families yesterday, among them had one obstetric and one abortion. Frannie Cresson has St. Vitus Dance, but is improving I think.

Brother and myself rode all the forenoon practicing. Since noon I have been in the office reading Anti Slavery Standard. It is filled with praise of Genl. Fremont, for practicing Martial law in Missouri, in which he says, "all Slaves of disloyal men are hereby proclaimed Free Men."

This is an advance of anything done by the government or by Genl. Butler. Genl. Butler only declared them "contraband" of war, and therefore held them as other goods. The Government directed Genl's to receive them when they came in, and if belonging to loyal men, to set them at work and keep an account of the work to be settled into the owners hereafter. All slaves were to be thus treated, but what was finally to be done with the Slaves of Rebel Masters does not appear. Fremont's proclamation solves all difficulties by making them Free Men.

4 o'clock P.M. In the Sunday Dispatch of today, I see that there is a letter from President Lincoln to Genl. Fremont, advising him that his order in relation to slaves is a little in advance of the Law in relation to them passed by the late Congress. Genl. Fremont then desires him to make a positive order to him, which the President does by ordering him to strictly observe the Law in relation to the Slaves of Rebels. The law is that only those slaves who have been compelled to work and fight against us are declared free.

September 21: Saturday.

There have been some hard fights in Missouri, but the reports are yet unreliable. The severest has been at Lexington, where Col. Mulligan with 8,000 men have been surrounded by Genl. Price<sup>xc</sup> with 15,000. Tomorrow we hope to have an authentic account.

A Fleet said to contain about 200 cannons and twenty-five thousand men left "Old Point" for some Southern Expedition on yesterday. We await with much anxiety news of their work. Our general plan of action seems now to be to make attacks on the Coast and thus compel the Southern troops to leave Manassas.

We rec'd. a letter from Edward on Thursday last. He has heard of the war, the

storming of Fort Sumpter, &c., and he immediately resolved not to resign (as he intended doing) but to hold on, as long as his Country needed his services. His letter was dated July 9th & 11th and he was at Hong Kong. The reports which have been contradictory for many days in reference to the surrender of Col. Mulligan and his force of 2,500 men at Lexington, Missouri, is confirmed today. Genl. Fremont has started succor of the other troops. There is a deep feeling of anxiety in the public mind now. In Missouri the rebels are in superior numbers. In Kentucky although the Legislature has passed a law to expel them from the state, they have seized some important places and are committing outrages on the Union people. In front of Washington they are in great force, pushing their works nearer and nearer. Volunteers seem to be coming forward slowly now, but thousands of men are recruiting, so that although each individual gets but very few, in the aggregate, they count pretty well. It is done in this way. A great many young men of position and standing, but now out of business, conclude to go to the war if they can get the situation of Lieu(tenant) or Quartermaster, &c. By recruiting 15 or 20 men they can get to be 2nd Lieutenant. So a young man starts off, dubs himself a Lieutenant and asks for recruits. He offers to young men of his acquaintance, to one Orderly Sergeant, to others Sergeant, Corporal, &c. Thus he will soon have enough to secure to himself the office of 2nd Lieutenant which is worth more than 1000 Dols. a year. This is going on all over the Country.

There has been a Fair of three days, at the Agricultural Grounds back of Norristown. An immense number of people attended. I took Caroline up this afternoon. She and Joseph were up yesterday. Tacie went up in the morning with Wm. Cresson. In the evening Clarence Cresson, Tom Pierce and wife and Nancy Fraly and Miss Boyle came here and took tea.

I enclosed Edward's last letter to Mayor Owen Jones this morning, so that he might show it to the Secretary of the Navy, that he might see how Commodore Stichling is regarded on board his vessels.

September 29: Sunday.

Morning. There has been no battle the past week that we have heard of. The Rebels are still crowding on Washington, putting up new entrenchments, nearer and nearer. Yesterdays paper informed us that their batteries on the Potomac are now attempting to stop our navigation of that River, below Alexandria, at Aquia Creek, Matthias Point, &c., &c. The young men in all sections of the Country are recruiting men. Cress Bradford, James Cresson's nephew has gotten twenty men; ten more will entitle him to the office of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant, an officer worth \$105 per month.

Joseph and Clarence Wills are about agreeing with Dr. Freas to form a company, Doctor Fr(eas) to be Captn., Joseph first, and Clarence Wills 2nd Lieutenant. I do not want Joseph to do it, but if he is very desirous, he must take his own way. There are so many recruiting that I think they will not get men rapidly.

There is great excitement about the operations in Missouri. Lyon was killed a month ago, in a battle fought at great disadvantage, and now Col. Mulligan has been compelled to surrender his 3000 men after a struggle for 5 days with 30,000 of the Rebels. Fremont had sent on reinforcements at the earliest moment, but they could not reach him to afford any succor. Friday last, Genl. Fremont started at the head of a Force, to cut off the rebel General Price, who now holds Lexington with a large force. From the

great energy and indomitable courage of Genl. Fremont we may expect some daring movements, particularly as he is now goaded on by the desire and attempts to have him removed, now made by many. Martial law exists in Missouri by order of Genl. Fremont, and about 10 days since, Frank P. Blair, a Col. in our Army, and a very popular man in Missouri, was arrested by order of Genl. Fremont. This produced great dissatisfaction with his friends, and has fanned the flame against Fremont, but by yesterdays telegram I see that Fremont has released him and ordered him to resume the command.

James B. Clay, son of the great Statesman Henry Clay, was arrested a few days ago, While taking 16 men to join the Rebels under Zollicoffer<sup>xcii</sup> in Kentucky. John C. Breckenridge<sup>xciii</sup>, the Senator from Kentucky, and late Vice President of the Re(bel) states, was with them but made his escape, and is now fairly with the Rebels. The war may now be said to be fairly begun in Kentucky in despite of all the attempts by her people to remain neutral. The Legislature is now in session and are in great majority for staying in the Union, so also with the people, three fourths of them are opposed to the secessionists, but those who are for the rebels are so active and malignant, and are so urged on and aided by them that they are really formidable. Troops are pouring to their aid from Tennessee and Virginia, so that during the last week, Major Anderson who commands our forces there has had to call troops from Indiana and Ohio.

Our line of operations extends now from Kansas down the Missouri River to St. Louis, thence down to Cairo at the mouth of the Ohio, then through Kentucky and Western Virginia to strike the Potomac River where it leaves Maryland, or rather enters Maryland, thence down that River to its mouth at the sea, and then along the whole coast to the Gulf, and on the Gulf shore to Mexico. A glance at this will show that 500,000 men will not be too many.

October 1: Tuesday.

Yesterday we rec'd. news that McClellan had made an advance on Munson's Hill on Saturday night and the rebels retreated from it. McClellan had advanced with 15,000 men, and in the dark Col. Owen's Regt. from Chestnut Hill mistook one of our companies for the rebels and fired on them killing and wounding a number. Our Troops now occupy the Country for 7 or 8 miles out from Washington in Virginia. News is cheering also from Kentucky and Missouri in this, that our forces are gathering strongly there. Reports from the South show that much fear exists all along the Coast, of an attack from our ships. Mobile, New Orleans and Pensacola are nearly destitute of men who have been drawn away to Virginia.

9 o'clock P.M. Caroline is playing the Piano. Tacie and Susan are reading and writing. Mother is sewing, trimming Bonnets for the little girls to go [to] the Spring Town Agricultural Exhibition tomorrow. Little Mary who has been quite poorly today (we are afraid with diphtheria) is sitting alongside of her mother and is just now quite cheerful. Follen is gone to bed, and Joseph is this moment going.

Genl. Fremont has re-arrested Frank Blair and Genl. Scott has ordered his unconditional surrender. Brother William left Norristown for Harrisburgh this morning to take his place tomorrow as one of the Medical Board for the examination of Surgeons for the Army. Doctors Worthington, Corson and Green are the board, over which presides the Surgeon General.

October 6: Sunday.

3 o'clock P.M. Sam, Jos. and Follen are sitting in the office talking and joking, and I, who have been practicing all day thus far, and till midnight last night, have just sat down to write off what has occurred since last writing. The old Agricul[tural] Soc[iety] held their exhibition during 3 days last week. We had our Grey Colt boarding there for all the time and got no premium. There was a great multitude of people there. The celebrated India Cattle of the late Doctor Hoffnagle were sold there, 20 half cows ranging from 6 mo. to 1 year at prices from 8 to 27 Dollars. The Arabian Stallion was bid to 3900 Dols. but they did not let him go. Cousin Richard Corson had a stud colt 3 yrs. old from the old horse, at \$180.00. Carrol S. Tyson delivered the address. I attended to some of Brother Wm. Corson's practice and my own for three days.

The war news of this week past is not very much. Great rumours of removing Fremont, but as yet it has not happened. The Rebels have evacuated Lexington which they so recently captured. They left for fear of being captured in turn.

We see by the papers that Com[modore] Stichling of the Hartford sloop of war has been suspended in China, and that he is on his way home, over land, while the ship is coming by the way of Cape of Good Hope, so we hope Edward is half way home now.

The "Frannie," one of our armed vessels with two rifled cannons on board was taken off Roanoke Island by three Rebel Tugs. There were a number of our troops aboard.

Very hot. The weather has been excessively hot for several days.

Last week Bob Corson sent up to Joseph that one hundred and seventy soldiers were to be selected from Pa., a few from each County, to form a body guard for Genl. Robt. Anderson; they are to be young men of education, perfectly temperate, and of good record for family and character, in fine, to be gentlemen. He wishes Joseph to apply. I scarcely think it necessary as Jos. has begun to study medicine. So Joseph told Guss Bradford of it and he went down. This very moment as I write, Joseph who is lying on the old lounge near to me, yawned and stretched himself and said to Sam, "Oh! I would like to go along with that Body-Guard." It was listliply said. I think he wants to go, but he also wants to stay until Edward come[s] home.

October 8: Tuesday.

Today I am fifty seven (57) years old, and next Monday Edward will be 27 years.

Rec'd. a letter from Edward today (dated July 26th Hong-Kong) in which he says they will leave for home on the 30th of July. Commodore Engle (sent out by the Government) had arrived and superseded Com. Stichling, much to the mortification of the latter. Edward says he will be here if they have a prosperous voyage, by the middle of November.

Genl. Anderson has been superseded by Genl. Sherman in the Command of the department in Kentucky, the former being in delicate health.

This is Election day (Oct.8th) and quite a struggle is going on, between the old Democratic Party, opposed to the Administration, now called the Breckenridge Party, and the Union Party, composed of all the Republicans, Douglass men and "Americans" who are for supporting the Government in carrying on the war.

Brother William has gone to Washington. The Medical Board which examined

candidates for Surgeons and Assistant Surgeons at Harrisburgh and which had 160 applicants before them will convene today at Washington City to examine those who are there with the Regiments but as yet have not been examined. They meet at Willards Hotel. I am attending some of his patients, so I am with his and mine quite busy. I am now writing in dining room alone. It is now 9 1/2 P.M. Caroline is playing on the piano. Follen [is] studying his lessons, Joseph [is] reading and mother and Tacie [are] sewing, Susan [is] studying her Latin, little Mary talking, Frannie and Bertha gone to bed.

October 9: Wednesday.

Been practicing for myself and Wm., very busy. Our Election yesterday went in favor of the Democrats. 9 1/2 P.M. Carrie is on opposite side of table writing to Jennie Brinton. I met Dr. Brenneman today at Norristown. He is assistant surgeon to Lewis Read at Tonnolytown D.C. He has promised to take tea with us tomorrow. Attended Dr. Adler in an operation at Conshohocken for Ovarian Tumour. Dr. Adler operated, his son-in-law assisted him, sponging, handing knives, &c., &c. Dr. Baker gave the ether and chloroform. Doctor Smith and Thos. gave general assistance, and I kept constant charge of the pulse. The tumour weighed 20 pounds, patient 22, time of removal of Tumour 15 minutes, whole operation 45 minutes.

Dr. Brenneman did not come to tea on account of a dysenteric attack.

October 12: Saturday.

Our patient is bad. Medical Society met today at Dr. Comfort's office in Conshohocken. William did not return from Washington until yesterday. Dr. Smith and myself are attending to the patient and she requires a great deal.

The war is progressing steadily. In Missouri Fremont has frightened Price from Lexington and is pursuing him South. But there is so much complaint with Fremont that Sec. of War has gone to see him. Our ships are being sent in great numbers to the Southern Coasts. Genl. McClellan is daily pressing his troops further towards Manassas and in a few days must bear down on the Rebels there

October 13: Sunday.

Practiced in forenoon and met Dr. Adler and brother Wm. in our patient's case at 4 P.M. I had called them on account of her extreme illness. After the meeting Mrs. Corson and myself went on to John Evan's and took tea and got home at 9 P.M. John is quite poorly. Our patient died 3 P.M., so passed away Miss Margaret Jane Dolly aged 22 years.

October 15: Tuesday.

Evening. News by Bulletin that the Rebels have sunk our Blockading ship the Pueblo below N. Orleans.

Miss Lizzie Brenneman, a school mate of Caroline, came up from Philad. with Follen. She is quite a lively pleasant girl, and we have spent a pleasant evening with her.

Money is very hard to collect. I can scarcely get enough to make all the ends meet, and yet I am building a small house in Conshohocken.

October 16: Wednesday.

Yesterday Miss Brenneman went home after dinner. I practiced. Not much war news. I. Cresson Bradford left home yesterday morning to take his place in the Body Guard of Major Anderson, now assembling at Carlisle Barracks. Poor Fellow! it is a long and hard service on which he has entered.

Evening, 9 o'clock. Ellwood has just come in from the City. He is quite poorly with cough and fever. I gave him some Magnesia and 1/6 gr. Morph(ine) to take at bed-time. He thinks he will not return to Philadelphia till Monday. Charles Lukens called about 8 o'clock and took Caroline to Seth Holts to spend the evening. Mother is knitting, Tacie sewing, the children Follen and Susan all learning their lessons, Ann and Elizabeth (the colored girl) in the sewing room sewing. I have been reading Grace Greenwood's writings. Isaac and Ian have been working to get sand and stone and lumber to build a new house at Conshohocken.

October 20: Sunday.

Practiced but little today. Very healthy time. Joseph came home from Lectures last evening, so we are all at home today, save Edward. Ellwood came home from Lectures quite sick on Thursday evening.

October 30: Wednesday.

The very day after the last writing, a Battle occurred (Oct. 21st) between 1,500 of our forces and 6,000 of the Rebels at Ball's Bluff, on the west side of the Potomac, below Harper's Ferry. The reports are not "Official," yet, but we were repulsed, and as our forces had no means of recrossing the River, they were utterly routed, with many killed and wounded and prisoners. It is considered very bad management, to have sent over there forces and have no way to return except by an old boat, which could carry only about 40 persons at a time. It was a terrible slaughter of a few Regiments. The celebrated Senator from California, the talented and eloquent Baker, fell at the head of his Regiments, while in the most critical period of the battle he was urging them onward. The distinction among the officers was very great. Young Oliver Wendell Holmes, son of the Doct[or] was wounded through both sides of the chest. Norwood Hallowell, son of Morris Hallowell of Philad., who was 1st Lieutenant of a Massachusetts Company was compelled, on account of the Capt'n. being disabled, to take command, and although nearly all of his force was killed, he escaped without a wound. He has published an interesting account of what occurred, in the "Press." Long lists of "the killed and wounded and missing" are published in the daily papers. A great sadness is spread over the Country by this defeat. But the cause goes on well in Western Virginia, Kentucky, Missouri, and along the Atlantic Coast.

Within a few days a fleet of more than 80 (eighty) vessels left old Fortress Monroe for some southern port, to make an attack. It carries about 30,000 men, 1,500 horses, 800 cannons, &c., &c. We await with great anxiety to hear the result of its attack. No one here knows where the attack is to be made. Some think at Charleston, or Savannah, others at N. Orleans.

Pa. now has 101,000 men in the field.

Our Teacher is now sick, and Daughter Susan is teaching. She is quite young (over 16) but is patient and intelligent, and is doing very well.

I am not heavily engaged in practice, it being very healthy. We have been having our Dining Room painted and papered.

November 4: Monday.

9 P.M. Mother and myself are in the dining room, she sewing and I writing. I have just finished two letters, one to Miss Dorothea Dix, and the other to Surgeon Genl. H. H. Smith, M.D., of Pa., on the subject of sending comforts and delicacies to the sick and wounded at Washington. Many of our people wish to do it, if they knew to whom to assign them.

The girls are in the parlor, having a pleasant time. Charles Lukens and Emma Wood having come up to spend the evening with them.

Last Saturday was very stormy from the East, and we are in great fear that our Fleet has suffered from it. No news from it yet.

Yesterday mother and myself went to Jesse Gorgas to spend the day. We got there at noon, and left for home at 4 1/2 P.M. Had a very pleasant visit with Cousin Jesse, David, and Rebecca. I have on hand now a case of fracture of both bones of the leg, and another of the forearm. I am building a small house at Conshohocken, but the weather is getting almost too cool for the masons. Joseph spent yesterday here.

November 6: Wednesday.

Evening 7 o'clock. Supper over. Mother and Carrie are sewing, Tacie knitting stockings for the soldiers, Follen and Susan learning their Latin lessons, Frannie and Bertha cribbling, and little Mary attempting some sewing. The wind and rain are making a noise outside the house.

Nothing new from the war today, except that Genl. John C. Fremont, the most popular man perhaps in the whole Union is superseded in his command of the West. "The Administration" has been most reluctant to do this act, but they have at last come to it. Fremont is charged with recklessness, extravagance, &c., &c. There is a general feeling of sadness at this act. Its announcement today was received with deep regret.

The Fleet is reported today as having been seen near Charleston coast Saturday, and had not rec'd. any damage from the storm. It is thought it will debark its troops below Charleston about 30 miles.

November 9: Saturday.

Evening, 9 1/2 o'clock. The war news since last Wednesday has consisted of reports of some skirmishes in Kentucky and Missouri, with a large battle at Columbus, Kentucky, between 3,500 of our troops sent down from Cairo, by the River, and 7,000 Rebel Troops in camp. Our people drove them from their camp and destroyed it. The Rebels were then reinforced and our people were forced to retreat. As yet we have no very positive account of the details of the battle.

Our Fleet is reported bombarding Beaufort, S. Carolina and are meeting with heavy resistance. Some of the ships grounded in the Gale. One shipload of 70 men was taken prisoners on the coast of N. Carolina. Genl. Winfield Scott has resigned and gone to N. York, and expects to sail for Europe next week. Several eminent men, viz., Archbishop Hughes, Thurlow Weed, Edward Everett, Genl. Scott, &c., sail for Europe in a few days on government affairs.



Beauregard has left Manassas and gone to the defense of the Southern Posts.

Frannie and her mother spent the afternoon at William Wills'. I went over since tea and brought them home. Very rainy all day. Joseph came home at 5 1/2 P.M., bringing with him Tacie's friend, Miss Minnie Stockton of Bucks Co. They are all in the room chatting away now, while Bertha and Frannie and little Mary are eating boiled Chestnuts beside me, here at the long table in the dining room. Our teacher Miss Annie Mallory thinks she is too poorly to continue the school, so I left her go away today and I engaged Miss Elizabeth Huston of Chestnut Hill to begin on Monday. Miss Huston had a brother killed last year by a Threshing machine (I was called to him when he was injured) and another killed in San Francisco last summer, and at Balls Bluff Battle her youngest brother only 20 years old was either killed or taken prisoner. They have not yet ascertained his fate. Yesterday I had a Consultation with Doctor Newberry in the case of Hon. Henry Horn, formerly a great Democratic Politician of Philad., now resident at Flour Town. I am to meet Dr. Newberry again on Monday next at 9 A.M. Mr. Horn is 75 years of age. He is now suffering from effusion in the pericardium, I think.

November 10: Sunday.

Called early to Alan Wills with Comp[ound] fracture of both bones of leg. One week ago yesterday, called to Anty Righter's son, with same kind of injury. Have also under care a fracture of Radius.

At 10 A.M. went with Joseph to the funeral of John Earnest, who died of Hydrophobia - did not go to the church.

Very busy all day. 9 P.M. James Cresson and wife have just called here, on their way home from Conshohocken. Clarence and Will walked to N. Yerkes' to stay all night.

November 17: Sunday.

During last week important events occurred. Our Fleet about which we had been very anxious owing to there having been severe storms since it started, attacked Fort Walker in S. Carolina, and after a most terrific bombardment of 4 hours (Nov.8th) compelled the Rebels to retreat., thus opening the way to Beaufort, a few miles further up Port Royal harbor. This was a grand achievement. It provides a noble Harbor for our shipping the coming winter, and will serve as a base of operations against Charleston and Savannah. The Negroes are flying to our people, while the rebel whites are running away. The Negroes are wild with joy at the flight of their masters.

Yesterday we had the announcement of the capture of Mason and Slidell in the Bahama Channel, on board a British steamer, by Capt. Wilkes of the San Jacinto. They were on their way as Confederate Commissioners to France and England. This was truly an important capture. They have been sent to Fort Lafayette at N. York or Fort Warren at Boston, I know not which yet. There is much rejoicing at this news today. We captured enough stores at Fort Walker, it is said, to pay all the expenses of the Fleet. This I cannot credit. Every white inhabitant fled from Beaufort, before any of our soldiers got up there. Today Joseph and myself having been dressing the fractured bones and seeing patients, Charles Lukens and David Harry took tea with us and spent the evening. Clarence Wills returned from Carlisle Barracks yesterday, and this afternoon he and his brother Andy called here and insisted on Joseph going with them to Rus Conards to see "Dave," so he is there to tea.

I have been quite busy in practice during the past week.

November 18: Monday.

M[et] in Consultation with Dr. Newberry, to "Henry Horn," an old and well known Democrat of Philad., now resident at Flour Town - Dropsy of the Heart. Practiced all day. Our Teacher Miss Elizabeth Huston is in the parlor spending the evening and our girls are now singing and playing on the piano. Follen and myself are in the dining room, I writing here, and he solving his algebra problems. Dave and Isaac were buying cabbage and turnips today. Ann and Elizabeth the colored girl were washing, and mother, Carrie and Tacie were sewing and knitting for the soldiers, while the girls, the younger ones, were at school. Quite cold today, but pleasant. Papers filled with the Beaufort and Mason and Slidell news. Great fear by some that England will quarrel with us for stopping their mail steamer and taking the Rebel Ministers off.

November 24: Sunday.

Since last writing there has been no great battle reported. On Thursday last, there was a grand military review in Virginia opposite Washington and about 8 miles from it. There were 70,000 troops spread over an extent of 4 miles. The spectators to the number of nearly 30,000 witnessed it from Munson's Hill. It has been very difficult to get a pass over the Potomac. If I had known that it would be free to every one on that day, I should certainly have taken mother and gone down. The Army on this side, at Washington was reviewed on Saturday. Those reviews indicate a forward movement soon.

The Canadian Press attacks us bitterly for the arrest of Mason and Slidell. Genl. [?] of Missouri has withdrawn the forces from the pursuit of Price, and is about to carry most of them to Kentucky. The two counties of Virginia lying east of Chesapeake Bay have been subdued since this day [a] week, and the Rebels to the amount of nearly 8,000 in arms, been disbanded without a gun being discharged. They have returned to their homes. We have convicted a man of piracy. His fate by law is death. On hearing it, the Rebels at Richmond selected all our chief officers who are prisoners, and putting their names into a box, caused Congressman Ely, also a prisoner, to draw out a name. He drew Col. Corcoran. Him they immediately put into a cell, to be treated in every respect as a convict and if we hang the pirate, then he is to be hung. They then drew 13 others, who are also to stand in the place of the 13 other pirates whom we have in jail but who are not yet tried. Our people will not, I suppose, execute the pirate, but will keep him till we have subdued the Rebels. Col. Hartranft and our boys from Norristown have gone to Annapolis, on their way to S. Carolina. My nephew Joseph C. Read is Lieutenant in Capt. Taylor's Co[mpany].

Genl. Butler has left Boston with a fleet and a few thousand men for an expedition south. In Kentucky the contest is growing grave. Every part of our immense stretch of coast and land operations are being carried on vigorously. Regiment after Regiment is passing on to the various divisions of the Great Army, now amounting to 600,000 men, according to last week's report.

Evening, 9 P.M. It is snowing. Joseph and the girls and Jenny Brinton and Clarence and William Cresson are in the parlor, and a very pleasant, happy time they seem to have had of it. They have been talking and laughing and having a high time,

while I and mother and Follen have been writing and reading here. I practiced most of the day, and have been reading the rest.

November 26: Tuesday.

Evening. When Follen came home from the University at 4 P.M. I was at Spring Mill to meet him; he told me the news in the City from Rebel sources was that Fort Pickens and some of the war ships had attacked the Rebel Forts on the main land. In a few days we will hear something positive. The Privateer Beauregard, with 26 men has been captured and brought to N. York.

The Press today contains the speech of our Minister to England, Chas. Francis Adams, at the dinner of the Lord Mayor of London. The speech was much admired and responded to by Lord Palmerston very kindly. Mother and I have been to Conshohocken to engage Rev. Lavery to make a speech for us at "George's Hall" next Friday evening, for the purpose of getting contributions for the sick and wounded soldiers, eggs, butter, slippers, drawers, stockings, dried meats, dried apples, peaches, cherries, &c., &c.

9 P.M. Follen has just returned from witnessing a rehearsal by the boys and girls of Plymouth at the Methodist Meeting house. Speeches, dialogues, &c., were the order. Follen has given us quite an amusing account of it.

November 29: Friday.

Evening. This evening at 7 o'clock we held a meeting at the Plymouth Methodist Meeting house to raise or organize the Ladies Army-Aid-Society. Mr. Lavery and Doctor Comfort made brief speeches. I was compelled to be away, until the meeting was nearly over, on a visit to my niece Martha Styer, who fell and hurt her leg. When I returned they wished me to say something to the people. As it was getting late I only made a few remarks, and read the letter of Dorothea L. Dix, which I had rec'd. a few days ago. Twenty-four ladies put down their names as members of the Society, and agreed to meet again next Tuesday afternoon when they will cut out and arrange work to be taken home and made up. A small collection was taken from men present. The night was so dark and rainy that many were deterred from coming. The Ladies Societies throughout the country are doing a great deal for the soldiers in this way.

Since last writing, our forces have taken Tybee Island near Savannah. A great "Stone Fleet" has started to block up the harbor of Charleston by sinking those vessels in the channel.

A large fleet is preparing to sail for Annapolis under General Burnside, for some southern port. My nephew Lieut. Joseph C. Read is in the Pa. 51st, which goes into the Expedition. The Rebels have moved their Capitol from Richmond to Nashville. Immense forces of our people are assembling in the West to go down the Mississippi, and to invade Kentucky, and in the East to bear down on the Atlantic coast.

The first Reg. Pa. Reserve Cavalry made a reconnaissance a few nights since and captured 13 Virginia Secessionists, killing nine others. Mayor Owen Jones of our County distinguished himself. Joseph and Ellwood have come home from the City and are now in the room with Follen and the girls and Saml. Corson. Mother is knitting here in the dining room while I write.

December 3: Tuesday.

Started out to practice early this morning; at 11 A.M. came to Michael Regan's at Flour Town. Mr. Regan handed me the "Ledger." Almost the first thing that I saw was the announcement that "The Hartford" had arrived and anchored last night at New Castle, Del. I hurried home and arrived at noon, when I found Follen who had just arrived from the City to tell us that Joseph had seen the announcement and that he and Robt. R. Corson, Clarence Cresson, William Cresson and William Hallowell had gone down in a "Tug" to meet the ship at Fort Mifflin. Follen returned to the City in the 1 P.M. Car. Mother and all the girls were intensely excited, and we all hustled about our necessary business in order to be ready to receive Edward if he should come. Follen returned in the 3 o'clock train and brought a note which Joseph had sent up to Conshohocken for me stating that perhaps Edward and himself would be up in the 8 o'clock train. "Uncle Jesse Foulke," as the children say, came here at dark to see what we knew about his coming, and at 8 o'clock he and Follen started to Conshohocken to meet Joseph and Edward. Saml. Corson came over while they were gone, and we anxiously awaited the return of Follen. At 20 minutes after nine we heard the carriage, and the little girls and myself went out to the office, when Edward sprang from the carriage and kissed us all around, and then passed into the dining room where mother and the girls met him at the door and welcomed him home again and we sat up late talking over matters that had passed since we parted. We were all together, and all well. Six months before Joseph was in Virginia toiling away as a soldier and Edward in China, as a surgeon.

December 4: Wednesday.

Evening. This morning at 8 o'clock Edward, Joseph, Follen and myself went to Conshohocken, where they all took the Cars to Philad, Joseph to attend medical lectures, Follen to college, and Edward to report himself on board ship at the Navy Yard at 11 o'clock. When Edward got to the City, he found there was a man from the ship out in quest of him. The ship had come to anchor in the river 150 yds. from the Navy Yard early in the morning, and soon after an officer from the government came aboard to swear in the officers. Four of them refused to take the Oath to support the Constitution, and they were instantly placed under arrest. When Edward went aboard he also was asked to take the Oath which he did.

December 5: Thursday.

Evening. Today Nancy and self went at 8 A.M. in the Cars to Philad. to see Edward on the ship. After doing some shopping, we went, Joseph going along, to the Navy Yard wharf where we saw one of the midshipmen whom Joseph had seen before. He went off to the ship and in a few minutes Edward came with the Ship's Boat, manned by a dozen sailors, and took us off to it. The officers received us most cordially. They seemed to regard us as old acquaintance and friends. We had a pleasant time there for two hours. Edward and Downs then came with us to the Continental Hotel, and afterwards Jos., Ed. and self came up to Uncle C. Bacon's where mother had already arrived. At 6 P.M. mother and self took the Cars for home. At C. Bacon's we met Jesse Foulke, Susan Foulke, Hannah, Emily, Johny Bacon, &c.

December 6: Friday.

Caroline and Tacie went to Philad. to get some dresses and perhaps go aboard ship. Edward had given each of them \$20 in gold. He had also given Follen an over coat (new) and \$10 in gold.

December 7: Saturday.

At noon, Edward, Jos., Caroline and Tacie came up from Philad. Edward expected his boxes of purchases to come with him, but although taken from the ship yesterday, they have not yet been rec'd. at the Depot. He is somewhat uneasy about them.

At six o'clock P.M. Edward returned to the City to stay aboard the ship tonight so that Doctors Tinslow and Cones may be with their families.

December 9: Monday.

Noon. On my return at dinner time, I found Edward and all his boxes had arrived.

December 10: Tuesday.

Morning. Last evening Edward opened his boxes. No one here except our family save Saml. Corson. The children were astonished and we were all delighted at the beauty and variety of his Chinese articles. I cannot pretend to enumerate them, silks, nankeens, candle sticks, lacker ware of infinite varieties, china, puzzles, &c., &c. When they were all spread out over the table, Charles Lukens and Mr. Swartz came in, and so the evening was spent, examining and discoursing on the wares. But there was one drawback to the pleasure. When Edward came up, he told us that Joseph would be up at 6 P.M. with Downes (Commodore's secretary). We sent to the Cars, and Joseph was brought up without Downes. Just before leaving the City he had come to Joseph and told him he could not come, as the U.S. Officers at the Custom House had seized all their goods and was going to confiscate them. Edward will return again this morning to see about it and also to "report aboard the ship" as they are not yet detached. I forgot to say that the four officers who were arrested for not taking the Oath were sent next morning to Fort Warren. They were Lieuts. DeBuo, Meyers, Forrest and \_\_\_\_\_. I gave Edward a letter of introduction to the Collector of the Port of Philad., W. B. Thomas. He thinks he may perhaps aid the men who have had their goods seized.

December 11: Wednesday.

Follen came up at 3 P. yesterday and went down again at 4 ¼ to go with Edward and Joseph to see "Forrest" play at the Academy of Music. Last evening I went with Rev. Laverty and Dr. Comfort and my daughter Susan to B. Hill Church, to hold a meeting to form a Ladies Army Aid Association. A few ladies agreed to unite for the purpose. Charles Wood and David Harry spent the evening here examining Edward's things. Dr. Bolling had called at 11 A.M. and left his card, and Rev. Sentman and wife called at 2 P.M. Mother met her Society at 2 1/2 P., about 25 ladies present. Besides the money that she and "Aunt Martha" spent the day before (Monday), they have now in the Treasury \$42.

December 13: Friday.

Morning. On Wednesday, Edward came up in the afternoon and staid all night. In the evening David Wood and David Harry and Emma Wood came here to see him. They staid till 10 P.M. David paid me \$200 out of \$400, which he owed me. We sat up till midnight and talked. Yesterday we went again to Philad. and returned to Norristown in the 4 1/2 P.M. Car to Norristown and came from there in the carriage with the girls. Last evening he and I went to Wills' to dress Alan's leg. Today we rode about and practiced till noon.

December 14: Saturday.

Evening. Yesterday afternoon Edward went to see his Uncle Alan Corson. I practiced. Aunt Martha and Sam and Ida, spent last evening with us.

This morning I took Edward to Alan Wills' and from there to Conshohocken, where I left him to pay a few visits to his friends. This evening Caroline and Tacie went down to meet him and Joseph and some young friends at Charles Woods, to take supper and spend the evening. I have practiced all day, and mother has been and still is engaged making drawers for Edward on the sewing machine. It is now nearly 10 P.M. and I will be off to bed, for I have the headache and need rest.

December 21: Saturday.

On Sunday last, Edward, Joseph, Tacie, Susan, Caroline, mother and self took dinner at Grandmother's at "the old home." Charles W. Bacon and Agnes were also there and we had quite a pleasant time. Then on Monday morning, mother and Edward went in the carriage to see his uncle and aunt, Dr. Charles and Harriet Foulke at N. Hope. They returned on Wednesday at 3 P.M. after a delightful visit, having had beautiful weather. On Wednesday evening, Jos., Caroline, Tacie and Edward went to David L. Wood's to a evening party given to Edward. Most of the Conshohocken friends of Edward were there.

December 26: Thursday.

Aunts Susan, Becky, Hannah, and Emily dined with us, and at 6 P.M. Edward and his aunt Becky went to Philad. Next morning early they went to his Uncle Thomas Wistar's and returned in the evening to Philad. and from there to Conshohocken and spent the evening at Esquire Wood's with Carrie, Tacie, Follen, &c.

## 1862

January 1: Wednesday.

New Years Day. Last Saturday evening at 4 o'clock Edward and Joseph took the Cars at Morgan's corner for West Chester, on a visit to Mr. Caleb Brinton's family. They returned on Sunday evening to Philad., and on Monday, mother went to the City to do some shopping and Edward returned home with her. On Tuesday morning the children brought him from the P. Office a letter from Washington, directing him to report to Com. Pendigrass at the Philad. Navy Yard. He went down to report and returned in the evening. This morning he is to report at nine o'clock and enter on his duties as assistant surgeon to Doctor Green. He is delighted with the situation. He has taken boarding in

Walnut above 9th at \$8.00 per week. Besides attending the Yard from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M., he will attend surgical operating and dissecting rooms at the University, and prepare for examination if called on.

January 2: Thursday.

Thursday evening, 11 o'clock. James Cresson's son and Fran, and the two Misses Wright from Columbia have been spending the evening here with the girls and Joseph and Edward who came from the City to be with them. They have had a lively time.

"Mother" has been very busy today, with the Ladies of the Army Aid Association packing up their "things" for the soldiers. They sent two large boxes of flannel shirts and drawers, socks, stockings, caps, fruits, dried beef, butter, ---- , preserves, towels, &c., comfortables, &c.

Mason and Slidell have been released, and I hope war with England has been averted. Great activity in naval war matters. All our border defenses to be strengthened for fear England may again become hostile.

Another lot of assistant surgeons to be commissioned. Chas. Styer, desires to go, and I have written to Professor Rodgers about it. Edward tells me tonight that Doctor Green and himself will be the Examiners, he thinks.

January 5: Sunday.

Night, 9 P.M. Edward and Lieutenant Dawson of the Hartford, now commanding the Marine force at the Navy Yard, came up in the 3 P.M. Cars. The family are all with them in the harbor, and are having a jovial time of it. Joseph came up last night and rode with me in the practice today. Weather very cold. I rec'd. a letter from Joseph Read (nephew) yesterday from Annapolis. Being a Second Lieutenant, he was selected to take place in the Signal Corps, being gotten up. He says the 51st Regt. is ready to move now for 3 days at a short notice. I had sent him a "Defense for the 4th Regt. Pa. Volunteers," which I had written. He showed it to Col. Hartranft, who formerly commanded the fourth, and he was pleased with it and willing that I should publish it, so I will likely do it this week. It is thought that an extensive movement will take place near the Potomac, within a week or two.

February 1: Saturday.

About a week ago, mother went to Thos. Wistar to stay a short time with her sister Priscilla. Carrie had gone to Philad. a few days before to spend some time with the Brintons Ladies. They have had a fine time with each other and with Joseph and Edward. Yesterday (Friday, Jan. 31) Edward and Carrie went to West Chester to a party at Mr. Brinton's. Joseph was to have gone too but, I rec'd. a letter from Edward last evening in which he told me that Joseph could not go, as he had been suddenly called upon on Thursday to report himself to Dr. Neill, surgeon of the military hospital in Philad., and "take the Oath of Allegiance," he having been appointed by Dr. N., a medical cadet. He took the oath and was immediately ordered to duty at the Hospital, Broad and Cherry Streets. Edward says they expected two hundred patients to arrive there that night from Washington. So Joseph will soon be full of business. Ellwood Corson is also to receive an appointment of the same kind. I gave him a letter to Dr. Neill last Tuesday. So this week mother and Carrie and Edward and Joseph have all been away all the time and

Follen in the day time at College. I have practiced a great deal. Tacie has not [been] home and overseen Anne and Lizzie, while Susan and Bertha, Frannie and Mary went to school. Day before yesterday, we had intelligence from the Burnside Fleet, which sailed for Pamlico Sound, about two weeks ago. They were in a dreadful storm and five ships are reported lost.

About two weeks since we had a fierce battle with the Rebels at Mill Spring in Kentucky. Our troops were victorious. The Rebel Genl. Zollicoffer was killed, and also more than 150 of the rebels, while a great many were wounded and taken prisoners, and the whole army routed, driven back to their encampments, and they fled from there leaving everything to our men. It was a great victory.

The weather has been foggy and rainy and snowy for more than two weeks, the sun scarcely appearing in all that time. It has been snowing all this day (Feb.1).

We hear today that our troops are marching on Savannah. They are preparing for active service along our whole line from N. Orleans around the coast and across the states to Kansas, except just at Washington.

Jam(es) Lane has been authorized to go down from Kansas to N. Orleans with 30,000 men.

Rec'd. from Charles Lukens, Corresponding Sec. of Conshohocken Lyceum, a notice that I had been elected an honorary member. I replied acknowledging the receipt of it, and thanking them for the compliment.

February 7: Friday.

8 o'clock P.M. Lizzy (the colored girl) and little Mary are playing checquers [sic] at my right hand, Ann (the woman) is in the kitchen. Isaac and Dan, our two men, are at the barn, Caroline at Mr. Brinton's at West Chester. Follen and Tacie have gone [to] the Conshohocken Lyceum. Susan went this afternoon with her aunt Martha to see James Cresson's family at Germantown. Bertha and Frannie have gone out to aunt Martha's to stay with the children and Edward and Joseph are in the City, and their mother is at Thomas Wistar's with her sister Priscilla who is not very well. She has been with her nearly two weeks. So this is the condition of our family tonight. Follen gone from the City this evening and says he was at the Hospital and the 260 sick and wounded soldiers had arrived. He did not see Joseph who was engaged, but saw Ellwood, who has also been made a medical cadet in the same Hospital.

Day before yesterday (Wednesday) I took Frannie with me in the sleigh to see Nancy, at Thomas Wistar's. It was a beautiful, bright day, and the sleighing excellent. We found her very well, and looking bright and cheerful. I spent an hour while there, with Thomas Wistar Senr. and wife.

Follen tells me that the Expedition against Fort Henry on the Tennessee River was successful. This is good news. That the "Bulletin" also contained an account of a Riot at Richmond, Virginia, that hurrahs for the Union were freely given. If this be so, then the Union sentiment so long suppressed by violence, is about to show itself, and the Rebels are becoming alarmed.

The Senate of the United States expelled Senator Jesse D. Bright of Indiana for Disloyalty, on Wednesday, Feb. 5th by a vote of 30 to 14.

My nephew Joseph C. Read who is one of the Signal Corps in Burnside's



Expedition has not yet written to us since that terrible storm which the fleet encountered. Nor have we seen any notice of the -----, the schooner in which the Signal Corps sailed. We feel uneasy about him, as nearly all the men from this region who were on other ships have written home.

February 11: Tuesday,.

9 o'clock P.M. The account of the Riot at Richmond was false. The capture of Fort Henry true. It was a great victory and opens Tennessee to us. Our Gun Boats have gone on up the River. We have Rebel Reports that our fleet is bombarding Roanoke Island, on the shore of N. Carolina. This morning Dan geared the two horses to the big sleigh and took Susan and myself to Thos. Wistar's to see Aunt Priscilla, and perhaps bring mother home. When we got there, we found mother had taken the Cars for home. Aunt Priscilla has the measles badly and on Sunday last her little daughter was born, the measles having come out on Saturday.

February 15: Saturday.

We have had great news this week. Our boats went on from Fort Henry to Florence, Alabama, destroying all the Rebels boats on the river. They were received along the river and at Florence with many manifestations of welcome.

We have heard also from the Burnside Fleet, which captured Roanoke Island, and all the rebels (nearly 3,000), their guns, ammunition, &c., &c. Several of their principal officers, among whom was O. Jennings Wise. Genl. Henry A. Wise escaped by being removed from the Island early on account of illness. Our troops next day went and took Elizabeth City, which had been partly burned by the Rebels.

My nephew Joseph C. Read, a lieutenant in the Signal Corps, has arrived at Hatteras. [There] were two weeks that they were not heard from, having been blown off by the storm.

Today we have reports from Fort Donelson on the Cumberland River, near the Tennessee line. Our Troops and gun boats have invaded it and are fighting with perfect fury. There are in and about the fort, which is a very strong one, 15,000 Rebels. If we take it, as we will, then both the rivers are open to us into Tennessee and probably to Alabama, and Nashville will soon be ours. The Military Ball is fairly open now. The thousands of prisoners taken at Roanoke are on their way to N. York.

February 16: Sunday.

Morning. I forgot last week to say that Genl. Stone who has had the command near Harper's Ferry, was arrested a few days since for Treason and sent to Fort Lafayette.

Some months since I prepared a Defense of the men of the 4th Regt. Pa. Volunteers, but owing to various reasons it was not published until last Wednesday week, when it appeared in the "Norristown Herald & Free Press," under the caption of "The Truth at last."<sup>xciv</sup> It has been received with great favor by the people generally. It shows the whole blame to be with the officers. It is now nearly nine o'clock and I will go to Conshohocken to see a patient and meet the Cars, so as to bring Ed or Jos. up, if they should come in them.

When I got to Consho., Ed and Jos. did not come, but a man called on me to go in

haste to the "Green Tree Tavern," 2 miles beyond Schuylkill, to see a patient. I went and after a brief stay, went on to see John Evans, ill with Consumption, whom I have been attending, about once every 2 weeks for some months. Got home about 3 1/2 P.M., and in a few minutes Mrs. Cresson and her son William arrived from Germantown on a visit to us. They spent the evening here. Edward was also here when I came home, having stopped at Sp[ring] Mill and ridden home with his cousin Sam Corson. Jos. and Ellwood did not come.

February 17: Monday.

Evening, 9 P.M. I have just finished reading the official report of the capture of Roanoke Island. It was a desperate fight. 3,000 men taken. I have also just read an Extra Ledger, brought by Follen, Fort Donelson is taken and 10,000 men made prisoners. Immense loss of life on both sides. Tomorrow we will likely have the details.

Mother rec'd. a letter this evening from Joseph asking her to have their Army Aid Society to send underclothing to the soldiers at their hospital, Broad and Cherry Sts. He says they now have 400 sick and wounded soldiers there and hourly expecting more. He also sent a letter to be sent to Mrs. Harry, President of the Ladies Army Aid Society of Conshohocken, asking for articles from them. Mother and Tacie and Susan are all busy engaged making up old lawn dresses, into Handkerchiefs for the soldiers. Carrie is expected home tomorrow. I have just finished writing a letter to the Army Aid Soc. of Chestnut Hill, ask[ing] them to send some of their things to the Hospital.

March 7: Friday.

I have been in the City today, to see Joseph and Edward. Nancy went with me, and after buying myself a vest, pair pantaloons and gum shoes, we went to see Edward at 909 Walnut St. He was not "in." Then we went to the Hospital to see Joseph. He took us through the Hospital, where there were nearly six hundred sick and wounded soldiers. It was an interesting sight. At 3 P.M., I started for home in "the Train." Follen handed me a letter from Edward, in which he states that himself and Dr. Gibbs will be up to see us on next Sunday, that he expects to be examined in two weeks for passed Ass(istant) Surgeon by special favor.

Since my last writing, Frank Lukens, son of Mr. Lewis Lukens, died under my care. Dr. Darrah was in Consultation with me, and I fear we erred in bleeding him. I have done a great deal of practice this winter. Have labored very hard.

March 10: Monday.

The news today is that Genl. Geary took Leesburgh in Virginia on Saturday, that our troops crossed to Cockpit Point below Alexandria, &c. Also some disastrous news. Last Saturday, the Rebel steamer Merrimac, which has been long preparing at Norfolk, attacked the Cumberland and Congress, two of our sailing ships of war, at the entrance of James River, and sank the former with great loss of life, and compelled the other to surrender. There is much excitement today, but as yet the reports are not authentic.

Dr. Gibbs, asst. surg. U.S. Navy, came up with Edward yesterday, spent the day and both went home in the evening. Brother William also came down and took dinner with us. They all had quite a pleasant time. Dr. Heysham also called for a few minutes and left me a fine vaccine scale, which is valuable to me now. Will Cresson and sisters

were also here. Will says his Father will open a hat and cap store tomorrow in Philad., in 4th St., with Wm. H. Bacon as salesman.

Joseph came up today at 11 A.M. He has a furlough from duty till tomorrow afternoon. 430 more patients were brought into their Hospital<sup>xcv</sup> from Washington on Friday night. Clarence Wills left home this morning at 7 o'clock to rejoin the Buell body guard at Nashville, Tennessee.

March 12: Wednesday.

This morning we have official news of the evacuation of Manassas junction by the Rebels. On last Saturday, the Rebel Iron-Clad Steamer Merrimac attacked to sink the Cumberland and Congress, two of our large war vessels, and sunk them both, destroying many of the crew. This was near Norfolk. Next morning (Sunday), the Merrimac returned to attack our large steamship Minnesota, which had run aground the day before. In the night preceding, the Monitor, a new iron-plated steamship of peculiar build, gotten up by Ericson [sic]<sup>xcvi</sup>, had come to anchor behind the Minnesota, and when the Merrimac came near the Ericson, or Monitor as she is named, sallied out to Combat; and then ensued one of the most terrific fights the world has ever witnessed. The Merrimac was crippled, 17 of her men were killed and was compelled to draw off. But for this timely appearance of the Monitor, our only iron-plated vessel, our whole navy at and near Fortress Monroe would have been destroyed.

March 13: Thursday.

Caroline and Tacie went to Philad. to the Commencement to see Charles Styer and others graduate. Tacie returned this evening, Carrie staid to go to the Refreshment Saloon to see a Regt. come in and be fed.

The Rebels are being beaten at every turn now. We have an official report of a battle at Barton Mountain in Arkansas in which our Genl. Sturgis defeated the combined Western force under McCulloch, Price [?], &c., &c. There was terrible loss of life. The fight lasted for 3 days.

March 26: Wednesday.

This morning in looking among scraps in the money drawer, I found this small newspaper scrap, which I had thrown in there. It is a just tribute to the generous character of my brother George, and I therefore past it in here.<sup>xcvii</sup>

Since my last entry we had a succession of victories, Pea Ridge in Arkansas, Mound City in the Cumberland Mountains, Newbern [New Bern] in N. Carolina, Beaufort in N. Carolina, also other cities there, also Fernandina, Florida. Manassas also has been evacuated by the Rebels. McClellan was outgeneralled by the Rebels at Manassas. It appears they never had many men there, and finally all left before McClellan knew it.

The fight at Island No. 10 on the Mississippi River has been going on for a whole week.

April 7: Monday.

"Mother" and myself and Follen went to John Evan's<sup>xcviii</sup> funeral, arriving there at 1 o'clock P.M. There were a great many people present, and we buried him on the top of

the Hill near to his home in the grave yard set apart by him, and where his wife and three sons were buried. John and myself were first cousins. Our mothers were sisters. He was a peculiar man, quite a botanist and mineralist.

April 10: Thursday.

This snow began to fall on Wednesday evening and snowed all night. In the morning there was nearly if not quite 10 inches of snow. As it first rained very much and the snow was very wet for the first few hours, it did not drift very much, but yet, some of the roads were impassable for a day or two. I had two horses put [to] the large sleigh and Follen and myself, with Dan to drive, drove about practicing all day. It was quite a good sleighing. Next day the weather became quite warm, and the snow melted rapidly. In less than a week, nearly every vestige of the drifts was gone. H. Corson.

April 30: Wednesday.

Since I last wrote we had an awful battle at Pittsburgh Landing on the line between Tennessee and Mississippi. Thousands were killed on each side, and the number of wounded is appalling, but we remained Masters of the field. There was a battle last week near Elizabeth City in which some of our Norristown men were wounded, Lewis Hallman, son of John C. Hallman, a lieutenant in the 51st Reg. was severely wounded. His father has gone down to see him, at Fortress Monroe. He was taken prisoner and since released by flag of truce. Every day for the last two weeks we have been expecting a battle between McClellan and the Rebels of York Town. The armies there are immense. It will surely come on in a few days. There has been news for several days from Rebel sources that our fleet has taken the City of N. Orleans. It is confirmed today. There is a great rejoicing over it.

Fort Pulaski has also been taken since I wrote. "McDowell and Banks" are pressing on to Richmond. Genl. Fremont has cleared the mountains of Virginia of the Rebel Guerillas.

Joseph and Ellwood have been closely at work for this past month. Their Hospital was densely crowded. Joseph has been twice to Washington and Ellwood once, to take back soldiers who have recovered. They take from fifty to two or three hundred at once. A week since they cleared the Hospital of all but a few patients in order to be ready to receive the wounded from Yorktown when the battle shall come off.

I forgot to say that on Sunday, Ap. 13th William Cresson asked me if I would object to his engaging himself to my Daughter Tacie. As he was the son of our old neighbors James and Mary Cresson and had always behaved himself very well and is a strict tetotaler [sic], I would not object to it, if Tacie desires it. So I suppose she may begin to prepare for having [a] home sometime. She is the first of the children to make an engagement.

May 5: Monday.

I took Caroline and Follen to Conshohocken to go in the 8 o'clock train to Philad. I found men everywhere instantly poring over the papers. On inquiry I found the long-talked of and formidable Rebel strong-hold, Yorktown, had been evacuated by the Rebels. On Saturday night they abandoned it, and our people are now reported in hot pursuit. So they have escaped from Genl. McClellan again.

May 6: Tuesday.

This morning we have the news of a fight between McClellan forces under Genl. Hancock, and the Rebels near to Williamsburgh, where the Rebels made a halt.

May 7: Wednesday.

Today the papers have another battle between McClellan and the Rebels at Williamsburgh in which the Rebels were severely whipped.

Evening. The Bulletin brings us the account of the battle of yesterday at Williamsburgh. It was a fierce battle in which our "Norristown Boy," General Winfield Scott Hancock bore away the honors. McClellan is struggling now to demolish the Rebels before they can reach Richmond. Banks and McDowell and Fremont, are all closing in upon their Rear with fierce strides. The war is becoming concentrated rapidly now. There is high excitement among the people who have relatives in the Army, for there is fierce fighting everywhere, Butler at N. Orleans, Burnside on the Atlantic Coast, McClellan, McDowell, Banks, Fremont, Hulloch, Buell, Com. Foote, and are all pressing on the enemy. But yet while all this desolation is going on, we are going on, up here in the Northern states, about as usual. While I write, the Parlors are filled with lively people. Edward and Joseph and Caroline came up from the City at 4 o'clock and Miss Jane Brinton, Miss Mary Thomas and Mr. Hichman, all of West Chester, came about sunset. Dr. Jones of Conshohocken and Clarence Cresson and Mr. Cresson of Germantown came about 8 P.M. So they are a happy party in there, discussing the war matters, dancing occasionally, making music on the piano.

May 12: Monday.

This morning we have the joyful news that Norfolk has surrendered to our land force, that the Merrimac was blown up by the Rebels, and that our fleet is now at Norfolk.

May 13: Tuesday.

Evening. Genl. Butler has proclaimed martial law at New Orleans, and has sent The Mayor and Council to jail for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance. Serves them right, they were very saucy.

Young Wm. Moore here from Philad. to night. He is at College with Follen.

I rec'd. a letter from Dan'l. Brown today asking me to recommend him for a situation in one of the Agricultural Departments at Washington.

May 13: Tuesday.

10 P.M. I have just finished a letter for him [Dan'l. Brown]. I am doing a great deal of practice every day.

May 14: Wednesday.

Newspapers full of the details of fighting, the affairs in N. Orleans, at Corinth, Norfolk, and in McClellan and McDowell's Commands.

Edward began his examination for "passed assistant surgeon" on Monday last. He has been coming up about twice a week during the winter, so that it seems strange to be without him now.

May 16: Friday.

We have rec'd. a proclamation from Genl. Hunter, in which he declares all the Slaves in his department Free men.

May 22: Thursday.

Edward has passed his examination very well. He beat all of the Class before him except one, Dr. Bartolet. Seven hundred is the standard. Bartolet made 680 and Edward 675. The next was 637, and some went down below 600.

May 31: Saturday.

Edward has been home several days. Indeed he lives here since he finished his Examination. A few days since he rec'd. an official announcement from [the] Sec. [of the] Navy that he was appointed "passed assistant surgeon. He at once "applied for orders." This morning when the mail arrived, he rec'd. an order to report to Commodore Read, at the Naval Asylum at Philad.. When I returned at noon, he was gone to report. He returned in the evening much pleased with the place, and will enter on his duties on Monday morning. In the evening Sam'l. Corson came over to consult me about Joseph and Ellwood. They have been assured by Doctr. Neill that they can have the place of assistant surgeons in the Army, and they want to know whether I think they had better try it, or remain where they are and ---- ----- go to Lectures and graduate. The Salary where they are is \$9.00 per month, the other Salary \$80.00 per month.

"Aunt Harriet," Dr. Foulke's wife, and her son Thomas have been here a few days, and we have had a lively time of it. I have been practicing a great deal.

I forgot to say that my daughter Susan began to teach our little school on the 12th day of May. She has now been 3 weeks at it, and does it very well. She is also studying Latin with Follen in the evenings.

We hear this evening that Memphis and Corinth are both in our possession, and we have a rumour that Richmond is also ours, and that our troops have repossessed Front Royal, from which Genl. Banks was driven one week ago.

June 3: Tuesday.

Evening. On Sunday last there was a terrible fight in McClellan's Department. A part of his force was attacked near Richmond, but the rebels were repulsed. It is called the "Battle of the Chickahominy." Tonight we hear by the Bulletin that the Rebels left 1200 dead on the field. We have not Richmond yet. Tonight we have also news that Fremont made a forced march across the Virginia mountains and defeated Jackson at Front Royal. In this engagement, we see by this evening Bulletin Berkley Thomas, son of Jonathan of Norristown, was killed. (later news says he is wounded in the jaw). It is interesting to see how anxiously we all look for the Press in the morning, and the Bulletin in the evening. All the girls devour the news with avidity. I do not have time to read till noon, and the while at dinner the girls read for me, and I finish it up by reading to the family after I am done eating.

June 5: Thursday.

Evening. The Battle of Chickahominy, or as now called the Battle of the Seven Pines, was one of the dreadfulest of the war. It was fought on last Saturday and Sunday.

We lost about 3,000 men in killed, wounded and missing, and the Rebels perhaps more. The Rebels made the attack and were driven off after two days fighting. We have the details of the battle and the names of the killed and wounded in the papers of today. It is dreadful slaughter.

This evening we have news that Halleck, or rather Genl. Pope under Halleck, is 40 miles below Corinth and has taken 10,000 prisoners.

June 18: Wednesday.

Daily since the Battle of Chickahominy, or Fair Oaks, as it is now called, we have had more and more details of that Battle, and we now sum up more than 7000 men killed, wounded, and missing. We have had no battle there since, and Richmond still is in possession of the Rebels, who have been greatly reinforced by soldiers from Beauregard's army, which has been driven from Corinth. Memphis is ours. All the Mississippi River is ours. The fight at Memphis, of our fleet with the Rebel fleet, was a complete victory for us.

Last Saturday evening, Sam'l. came home and said Joseph and Ellwood and Tyson would be sent on Monday to the Battle Field at Fair Oaks to bring a load of wounded soldiers. Surgeon General Hammond had selected them. Accordingly on Tuesday of this week, Ellwood and Tyson (Dr. Neill not being able to spare Joseph) went on board the Louisiana and sailed for the James River.

Last week I attended the meeting of the Pa. State Med. Soc. in Philad. during two days. On the second day I took dinner by invitation at Doctor Stillé's [Alfred Owen Stillé]. There were present besides myself and Dr. Stillé, Dr. Jno. Atlee and son Walter, Drs. Condie, Stewards, Jno. Bell, Mason, Wallace and one other.

The wounded soldiers are coming to Philad. by thousands. There is much sickness in our Army. The Rebels are going in Guerilla Bands through Tennessee, Kentucky and Virginia.

The Breckenridge Democrats in the Free States are secretly working to organize and lead the blind masses who swear by the name of Democracy.

A Bill is pending in Congress and will likely pass in a day or two to prohibit Slavery in all the Territories in the Union.

July 4: Friday.

We have been in a state of much excitement during the last week, as fighting has been going on at Richmond during the whole time, and no account of it has been allowed to reach us from the government. But in despite of all Prohibition, we have heard of the retreat of the right wing, McCall's Division from [the] "White House," and the entire withdrawal of all the vessels, 700 in number, from the York River to the James River. This was all said to be a strategic movements of Genl. McClellan. But yesterday morning we had the papers filled with news that the whole Army had been driven back 17 miles so as to be under cover of our gun boats on the James River, below Fort Darling, which is the fort that prevents our vessels from going up to Richmond. This retreat of 17 miles was a desperate fight all the way. The Rebel General Magruder and 2000 men were taken prisoners. Genl. McClellan had to sp--- his Siege Guns, being unable to get them through the swamp. The loss in men is supposed to be very great. The anxiety in the public mind is intense. I suppose Pa. must have at least 70,000 men in McClellan's

Army. There are now more than 10,000 sick and wounded soldiers in Philad. Joseph came home last Saturday at noon to recruit for a day or two, but on Sunday he was sent for to come back as 600 more patients had arrived by steam boat, so he left here early Monday morning. On account of a disposition in some of the generals in the Shenandoah Valley to not cooperate properly with each other, the President has placed Genl. Pope over Fremont, McDowell, and Banks, and Genl. Fremont, therefore, immediately resigned.

We wait with great anxiety the news of this morning. There will be a general holiday, but we are compelled to work at our hay, for we have much out and the weather has been very rainy, but this promises to be a fine hay-day.

President Lincoln has called for 300,000 more men. Those will make our Army 1,000,000. In yesterday's Press is the reply of General Hunter to the resolution of inquiring of Congress, presented by Wickliffe, a slaveholding Secessionist of Kentucky. The answer is so sharp, and will be so efficient in bringing the public to appreciate the importance of arming the Blacks, and of appreciating their loyalty that I will paste it in my journal.<sup>xcix</sup>

July 8: Tuesday.

We lost in the late battle which was fought for 5 days about 15,000 men in killed, wounded and missing. It was an awful fight, but McClellan extricated his Army from the swamp, and has consolidated them on the Banks of the James River, alongside of our gun boats.

July 22: Tuesday.

Congress has passed a Confiscation Bill, with a clause that allows the slaves to be used for any military whatever. Since the 4th of July, the Army of the Potomac has been filling up its broken Regiments. Thousands of wounded soldiers have been taken away to the Hospitals in the large cities. Other Hospitals are filling up in smaller towns throughout the Country accessible by Rail Road. The people anxious to have a war policy that will use all the resources of the Country, and that will use everything the Rebels possess, and that will organize the slaves into Regiments. General Pope is in command in the Shenandoah Valley and has already done some good work. Genl. Burnside has been brought from Newbern [New Bern] to Newport News, to operate some way with McClellan and Pope. Genl. Halleck came to Washington today from the West to take command of the whole Army. Vicksburg is still in the hands of the Rebels.

August 4: Monday.

Since July 22nd when I last wrote, we have been anxiously waiting for something from McCellan's Army, but no news has come, only load after load of wounded soldiers.

Last Saturday I was in Philad. to see Joseph and Edward, took dinner with Edward, then visited Joseph and returned by the 4 1/2 P.M. cars. Three hundred thousand troops were ordered about the time of my last writing, and since that 300,000 more, making in all 600,000 men to be raised before the 15th day of August, or if we fail in enlisting so many, then a draft is to be made. The people are greatly excited and some of them are in great fear. Many are running to me to get Certificates to clear them, but I can do nothing. Others are going before Magistrates and swearing to disabilities and



having their affidavits filed in [the] Commissioner's office. There is great fear. The Breckenridge Democrats, by whom I mean the Democratic Party in general, have tried to embarrass the Government in all its operations, and have stood aloof and mocked at the efforts of the Government to suppress the rebellion. Now they find themselves liable to be compelled to face the danger and they are pale with fear. They have all along bellowed against using the slaves to help our soldiers do the entrenching, &c. Nothing pleased them but our reverses. Now they are crying out "why don't you arm the Niggers." Are they too good to fight, &c., the very things which they have opposed the Government.

General Pope has issued orders that every Rebel resident found in the march of his Army shall take the Oath of Allegiance, or be put into the Rebel lines and if he returns again within our bounds, he shall be shot, all their property shall be seized and used, and many other stringent measures are to be enforced against them. This has called forth from Jefferson Davis a proclamation that if any Commissioned Officer under General Pope shall be taken prisoner, he shall not be treated as a prisoner of war but shall be hung.

The assessor has been about enrolling all persons between 18 and 45. It has produced a terrible consternation. Follen is enrolled. He is now about 19. He seems to take it quietly. The young men seem to have a great dread of the Draft. They think it not so honorable as volunteering, besides a bounty is offered in some places. In this County, the Democratic Commissioners will not give away Bounty, so the men are going to Philad. and other places where it can be obtained.

August 8: Friday.

Evening. Joseph has come up to stay till Sunday morning. Another large lot of Sick arrived, a night or two ago, from McClellan's Army, at the Broad and Cherry Sts. hospital. Jos. looks well. He seems anxious to go to the war as an assistant surgeon, but is also anxious to graduate next spring, which he can't do if he go[es]. Nearly 100 assistant surgeons have been sent within two weeks to the Army Regiments, an additional assistant surgeon having been ordered to each regiment. Dr. Chas. Styer and Dr. Levi Oberholtzer, both my students formerly, went off suddenly. Dr. Comfort and Dr. Jones, both practicing at Conshohocken, pulled up and went without having thought of it a day before.

August 10: Sunday.

Two persons have been here to get clearances. Rec'd. a letter from a young man in Philad., to get a Certificate to clear him on account of having had an abscess behind his ear about 12 years ago. Did nothing for any of them, as they were all able-bodied.

Joseph returned to his Hospital duties this morning. Caroline and her Aunt Emily went to stay with Edward at the Naval Asylum last Tuesday. His mother staid with him a short visit before that time. It is a very pleasant place, and as he "keeps house," it is pleasant for them to be there.

August 23: Saturday.

Edward's class all finished their examination this week, and as he ranked them all,

having made the last examination, and as a surgeon died recently, he rec'd. his promotion to a full surgeonship on this day. It is likely no man has ever so quickly become a surgeon in the U.S. Navy. It has often been 20 years before that place was reached. His salary is now 2,000 Dols. while at the Asylum and 2,200 Dols. if he goes to sea. As an assistant surgeon has been just with him, Caroline and Susan had to leave. Carrie came home and Susan staid at her uncle Chas. Bacon's.

August 24: Sunday.

Since I last wrote of the war, Genl. McClellan's whole army has been withdrawn from Harrison's Landing on the James River and went up to Acquia Creek to join the forces of Burnside, Pope, &c. This has been a very difficult matter to perform, but it has been accomplished, although only by much fighting between Pope's Army and the Rebel hordes who, finding McClellan was going away, attempted to break through Pope's Army and met on their way to Washington, before McClellan could get his forces round to join them. The battle of "Cedar Mountain," where Banks repelled an immense force of Rebels, and also the retreat of Pope after he found the whole rebel force was coming upon him will stand among the bravest, best managed maneuvers of the war.

August 31: Sunday.

For a whole week we have had an exciting time. The Rebels anxious to defeat Pope before the forces from the Peninsula under McClellan can come up, have pressed with immense force upon him and at this writing have reached Manassas, by a route which has left Pope below them. A great battle has been fought on Friday and yesterday, but all correspondents having been driven from the Army, we have no authentic account, only that a battle has been fought at Bull Run and we lost about 8,000 in killed, wounded and missing, while Pope thinks the Rebels must have lost twice as many, they being driven off, and are now being pursued.

September 1: Monday.

Evening. This morning's paper brought us some official news from the Army in Virginia. They have been fighting for 3 days with varied success. The slaughter has been immense. Surgeons and Nurses are called for by the Governor. At dinner today we were much excited and I said I thought I would go down. Mother (wife) thought I had better. The children seemed somewhat reluctant, but it was finally concluded I should go to Philad. and see how matters stood. Went at 1 1/2 P. At Manayunk saw Dr. Cornog who told me, he intended to go in the morning, but saw an order from Genl. Halleck, or Sec. [of] War, I forgot which, that none but soldiers should go into Virginia, and therefore he did not go. Several Norristown people were on their way, as nurses. As the draft is impending, persons under 45 cannot get passage on the cars. I went to see Joseph and he thought I had better not go. Rumors of great disasters to our Army being published today by the N. York Tribune, the Government closed that office and immediately the dispatches from Washington that "Banks was not cut up, that McClellan had not turned traitor, that no fighting took place today up to noon, &c. People then breathed easier, but still the excitement was intense. The new regiments are hurried on night and day as fast as they can go. The Corn Exchange Regt. went this afternoon at 5 o'clock. Coming home in the 6 P.M. cars were fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, &c.,

who had been to the depot to see their relatives off. They were sad and sorrowing people, but still they bore up and were strong for crushing the Rebellion.

September 2: Tuesday.

The Press announces this morning that no surgeons were needed. Nearly 1000 have arrived at Washington, but as our wounded are mostly in the hands of the enemy, there are not many of them needed, but the men are being exchanged.

September 7: Sunday.

The Rebels have crossed into Maryland by two or three ferries or fords of the Potomac above Harper's Ferry and are at Frederic [sic]. There is great consternation here. People are terribly frightened. I have enough to do to console them as I go around. I assure them in the strongest terms, that nothing is needed but to give support to our leaders and they will bring us out right. But those who know nothing of the geography of the country think they are just at the door of their homes.

September 8: Monday.

Great consternation with some of the people. The reports are that 150,000 Rebels are already in Maryland, and are marching into Pa., are already at Hanover and striking for Harrisburgh. The Governor has recommended all to close their places of business at 3 P.M. and form companies to drill. The marshals are making their returns and tomorrow the Commissioners and surgeons will commence to exempt those not fit for military duty.

Follen goes to the City to begin his studies today, but it is uncertain about his going more than a few days for if this state of things continues, he will go to fight. Edward came up on Sunday and went down with Follen this morning. I got a letter from Joseph today, by Ellwood. He says they have had 800 more men just brought from the last battle field. They have now 1,500 in the Broad and Cherry Sts. hospital.

September 10: Wednesday.

My brother William has been appointed surgeon for Montg. Co. to examine all those who think they should be exempt on account of physical inability, and last evening I was at his office and with him examined several who came in. And this morning I got to Norristown at 11 o'clock to see how he would get on, this being the first day of the sitting of the Commission and surgeon to determine cases. Well! it was a sight. The Commission, James Boyd, Esq. was in the Court Room and this was nearly half full with people passing forward to be heard on their various pleas, some for [conscience], some under-age, some over-age, &c., &c. Several of our young Quakers disgraced themselves greatly. They affirmed that they could not bear arms, that they would not if even father and mother, or wife and children were being murdered before their eyes, attempt injury to the assassin. Shame! shame! on such Hypocrites and cowards, and liars.

My brother received the would-be exempts in a large upper room. Jos. Albertson, Sam'l M. Cresson and myself made our way up there, and what a sight, a hundred persons waiting to be examined, and William and his assistant, Dr. Baker, examining their chests, eyes, ears, limbs, &c., &c. It was very warm and Wm. was sweating the greatest. I had been there but a few minutes when I was sent for in gt. haste to see Mrs. Eliza Smith,

mother of Dr. Sam'l. Smith, dying of dropsy from disease of [the] heart, and her gd. child, son of Mr. Neff. Mr. Neff took me down to Brookfield in his carriage and brought me home again by 2 P.M. Saw some patients and went to Norristown again, helped Wm. and Baker to examine Exempts, returned at 9 P.[M.]. Some curious cases, some amusing incidents.

September 11: Thursday.

I went to Dr. Smith in the morning. Mrs. Smith is dead,<sup>c</sup> child but little better. In the afternoon, went to Norristown to see some of William's patients for him. Wm. is busy at the Court House, hearing other cases today. Follen went to school, but he seems desirous to go to war. Tacie is in town for the last 10 days. Susan is teaching our school. Today there is a proclamation from Governor Curtin, I am told, calling out every able bodied citizen. Mother and Carrie, Susan, Bertha, and Mary are all anxious about the war, but are all hopeful and full of zeal. Tuesday last, they were all at the meeting of the Ladies Army Aid Association of Plymouth. (They meet every week in the Methodist Church). There were an unusual number of ladies present. Caroline had the sewing machine, which she worked. The others sewed with the needle, "cut out," &c., &c. So they go on every week, laboring for the soldiers, and it is surprising how many things they do get up.

September 12: Friday.

It rained violently today and Follen did not go to the City. At noon, he and Sam'l. and myself went to Norristown and found the town alive with men preparing to go to Harrisburg, at the call of the Governor, who has just asked for 50,000 troops to repel the threatened invasion of the state by the Rebels. Sam'l. and Follen saw Captn. Cook and agreed to go with him tomorrow. They at once left for home to get ready. I remained and helped William to examine Exempts, and attended to some practice. In the evening, Sam and Follen went again to Norristown to see classmates who talk of going. There is intense excitement among the people, and they are rising by thousands in every part of the state.

September 13: Saturday.

Follen and his mother went to the City today to get [a] knapsack, gum blanket, &c., &c., for Follen. I attended the funeral of my friend Mrs. Smith, widow of Doctor James Smith, in the forenoon. After dinner I went to Norristown to attend to business for William. As I went to the town, [I] saw Captn. Cook with 25 men, with knapsacks, &c., marching to the cars to go to Harrisburg. [The] Captn. asked me to tell Follen to come on, on Monday morning. I found that he had Carrol Tyson in his company and that the intention is to have him as lieutenant. As I do not think him loyal, I shall advise Follen and his friends not to go in that company.

Evening. Jaywood Lukens is here to get Follen to go with him and proposes the Conshohocken company, and as he will not go under Tyson, he will probably go in that company. Aunt Martha and her son Sam, Jay Lukens, and his sister and all our girls and Fol and mother are all in the parlors, and the talk is all of the war. More than 200 companies are already offered to the Governor in the short space of 2 days, and many of

them are on there way to the Capitol of the State. They are to go with rifles, 60 rounds of cartridge, five days rations, &c.

September 15: Monday.

Joseph and Follen and Jay Lukens went to Norristown after breakfast, to see what Captn. Bonsal[l]'s was like, and when going. I went to Doctor Smith's to see his nephew; returned at noon. The Boys, Follen and Jay Wood, have put down their names, and are to be at the Court House to answer to their names at 2 1/2 o'clock P.M. Mother and the girls have been very busy getting Follen's haversack and other things ready. They have also made a haversack for Jay Lukens. At 1/4 past one, Follen was all dressed in his uniform and ready for a start.

Dan McClurey, our hired man, came out from his dinner at this time (he had been Ploughing all the forenoon) and said to me "can't I go along with Fol." I said, "yes, if you would like to." After a few minutes talk he rushed up into his room, put on clean clothes. Joseph gave him a handsome cap and black valise. Mother gave some other things, and in fifteen minutes from our talk, he had bid all good bye, and was in the carriage ready to move. In a minute more we saw Jaywood Lukens and his father coming up the road, so we all moved off. Mother, Bertha, Follen and myself in our carriage, Sam, Jos., Dan and Frannie in another, and Mr. Lukens and Jaywood in theirs. When we arrived at the Court House, and found soldiers assembling. I presented to the Captain a letter describing the Boys and asking him to regard them as he would his children. Before 3 P.M. the line was formed, the roll then called, the music began and they took up the line of march for the cars on the other side of [the] Schuylkill at Bridgeport. It was an interesting sight; about 100 soldiers in citizen's dress, but each with an army cap, passing down the middle of the streets, while the side walks and part of the street sides were one dense mass of men, women and children, nearly all of whom accompanied them to the cars and waited till they moved off at 4 1/2 P.M. Such shedding of tears by friends, such shaking of hands, &c., until the moving cars bore them away. But few were in complete uniform. Follen was one of them and looked neat and trim as any one. He went off in fine spirits, but was deeply affected in parting from us at home.

It is sad to see young men leaving home for the war. Just as we turned away from the fleeing cars, we heard from every side that a dispatch had just been rec'd. from Genl. McClellan that he had fought a desperate battle with the Rebels near Hagerstown on yesterday and had defeated them, but had lost Genl. Reno. The rebel loss is estimated by Genl. Lee at 15,000. Joseph went to the City in the cars. Sam and mother and the girls started for home, and I remained to see some of William's patients, he being in the upper end of the county examining the Exempts. Joseph Jones, Charles' son, also went with Follen.

September 16: Tuesday.

Today B. Markley Boyer, as Captain, left Norristown with nearly 100 men, so 3 companies have gone within 3 days and tomorrow, a cavalry company raised by D. H. Mulvany, Esq. is to leave. There certainly will be more than 50,000 troops sent to Harrisburg before one week more shall expire.

Evening 9 P.M. Mother and all the girls are around the table were I write, mother

cutting out flannel shirts for the soldiers, and Carrie, Tacie, Susan, Bertha, Frannie and last as well as least little Mary are all busy pulling old muslin into lint.

September 25: Thursday.

Joseph came home from the Hospital on the day before yesterday at 4 1/2 P.M. He had to walk from Spring Mill, and as he was quite sick, it was almost too much for him. Yesterday he cont'd. quite sick and is very sick today. Edward came up almost a week ago and told us he had asked the Chief Surgeon to detach him from the Asylum. We were sorry he did it, but as he thought he was not needed there, he thought he would be detached, and if he were not sent away, he would come home and stay with us, until ordered to active duty. Today he sent a letter to us that he had rec'd. a letter directed to the surgeon of the Mohecan [sic], &c., as that vessel is ready to sail except not having a surgeon. He supposes it is an intimation to him to be ready, though he has not yet been "detached" from the asylum.

Follen came home this morning before we were up. He and Dan having walked from Norristown, where they had arrived at 3 A.M. after being in the cars from 11 P.M. the day before, from Harrisburg the night before, and yest[erday] having come from Hagerstown. The Governor ordered all the troops from Maryland on Monday last. Though the Governor only called for 50,000 troops to repel the invasion, 90,000 volunteered in less than 10 days. But I have gotten ahead of events. On the very day our Boys (I mean Bonsal[l]'s company, which at Harrisburg became part of the 11th Regt. Pa. Militia) arrived at Hagerstown, a dreadful battle was going on between McClellan's forces and the Rebels at Antietam Creek, only a few miles from Hagerstown. This was an awful battle and the slaughter terrible. Henry Schultz, the youngest son of my niece Hannah Schultz, my sister Sarah Read's daughter, was instantly killed. Many thousands were slain, but we gained the field and the next night the Rebels retreated over the Potomac. The night after the battle, and while it was yet uncertain whether the Rebels would be ready for a fight next day, McClellan sent to Hagerstown for reinforcements, and our Boys were put in motion for aiding him if necessary. But after being up night and day for a couple of days, they found the Rebels were gone, and so Gov. Curtin, who was at Hagerstown, ord[er]ed the whole of the militia home. The horror of this battle have stirred the whole people to a sense of the dreadful character of the Rebellion. The Militia who went to Maryland so speedily had a very hard time. They had great labor, poor food, (Follen and many others took nearly enough from home to last a week, or else they would have suffered), and but little sleep. They had no tents, slept on the ground every night, were packed into cattle cars as thickly as they could stand,, when they were on the railroad, &c., &c. But notwithstanding all this, lawyers, merchants, mechanics, young men of all classes, and even old Judge Krause bore it all unflinchingly. Some few directed here and there.

This week has been one of great events. Yesterday, President Lincoln issued his Proclamation of Freedom to the slaves of Rebels, and today another Proclamation, to put down treason, and for that purpose suspends the writ of Habeas Corpus in cases of arrest for disloyalty or inciting it.

October 1: Wednesday.

Edward has been assigned to the Mohican. Joseph has returned from the Broad

and Cherry Sts. hospital sick with fever. He has been home since last Tuesday and is quite ill. Ellwood also came home today with fever, from the same Hospital. Joseph is quite worn out; they had so many hundreds of patients there to wait on, and for the last two weeks he has been dissecting three or four hours daily. Ellwood is not so poorly. Edward will not go yet for a few weeks, but is now laying in the Ward-Room stores. He is up every few days and always stays all night.

October 7: Tuesday.

Joseph is better; able to sit up a very short time. Ellwood [is] much better. There has been nothing done by the Army of the Potomac since the Battle of Antietam Creek.<sup>ci</sup>

October 14: Tuesday.

Joseph rides out. My last writing in No.2 was Oct. 7. Joseph was then just able to sit up. Today, though very weak, he went with me in the carriage to the Election to try to defeat the Breckenridge Democrats. Ellwood went to the medical lectures at the university yesterday. Edward was up yesterday. He is 28 years old today. Since I last wrote, the Rebels made an incursion into our state with an armed force of 3,000 cavalry & six pieces of artillery, capturing Mercersburg and Chambersburg and carrying off a great many horses, &c. It is a shame that McClellan allowed such a thing. Still he remains inactive along the Potomac. He is a slow boat. While many doubt his loyalty and think he is playing into the hands of the Rebels, I do not. He is a slow, cautious nature, not fitted for daring enterprize. Fremont, or Burnside, a Hooker or Banks would do better.

In Kentucky and Tennessee, Buell and Grant are doing some hard fighting. The battles of Hatchie and Perryville were dreadful and were victorious (though dearly bought) for us.

The draft is to take place on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Many people hoot at it, and say they have put it off so often that they know the Government is only trying to frighten the people to volunteer. I think they will be disappointed. The draft will surely come. The draft for Militia to serve for 9 months took place at Norristown today. Conshohocken was the first called. It produced great sadness in many families. A few Abig men@ were drawn, much to their disgust as they were Democrats who had Asniggered@ much about the Anigger war.@ I have not seen the list for other townships. This evening Hiram C. Roberts came to me very much frightened because he had been drafted for Conshohocken. On account of great deafness he had supposed himself clear, and so did not attend the appeal. His name being thus left on the roll, he was drafted. I wrote him a letter to brother William to see what could be done for him.

October 17: Friday.

The Draft still going on. Only 8 drawn from Plymouth Tp. John Burns has come to me for advice.

October 18: Saturday.

As Whitmarsh was to be drafted today, Follen and I went to Norristown, after seeing a few patients, and witnessed the drawing. The Court House was about half full of anxious people waiting to hear their names called, but hoping they would escape.

Seventy-five names were drawn. A great number were our immediate neighbors and scarcely one of them I did not know. Many of them are laboring men with large families. This morning I visited John Burns family and found his wife in the deepest agony. John used to live with me and he says he will do whatever I advise. He has a large team and a good contract of hauling stones to the Furnace. He also digs one for me by the ton. It is very distressing to see those men dragged away from their families. Three of our storekeepers here are drawn. Isaac Styer who is married to brother Alan=s daughter Martha is in this list. There are many sad families in Pa. this night. There is a great demand for substitutes.

October 19: Sunday.

Last evening I took Mrs. Corson up to stay all night with her mother. Today she and her sister Susan expect to go to see sister Priscilla Wistar whose husband is very poorly with an affection of the brain. As I visited my patients today I called to see Thomas Reardon=s family. He was drafted yesterday. I have been attending Mrs. Reardon for a few days in her confinement. She has six little children, and a few days since I was to see her and asked her how she felt. She said, very well, only that I am so fearful my husband will be taken from me. I encouraged her to hope for the best. She is a most loving woman and her husband a fine man, but has to work hard to keep his family. He works at Hitner=s furnace. Yesterday when I heard his name called out, it sent a pang through me. Today I called to see her, and she was sobbing as if her heart would break: What could I do but encourage her by saying that they would all be put into comfortable Winter Quarter in Philad. and kept their until the first of April next, and that after that the campaign would be very short, and that as for her family, we would see to it that no harm would come to them. That it was much better to go in the Draft for 9 months, than to go for 3 years as so many thousands have done. I left her somewhat more calm.

There is to be an immense Army Hospital erected in Chestnut Hill and is placed under the charge of Doctor Hopkinson. A few days since, I wrote a letter to Doctor Condie<sup>cii</sup> of Philad. asking him to speak to Doctor Hopkinson in reference to my occupying a place as Consulting Physician. I yesterday rec=d. a letter from Dr. Condie stating that I would have the place if the arrangements will suit me, and saying that Dr. H. would like to see me very soon. It is now 1/4 after three P.M. Bertha comes in and says Joseph has just walked over from Aunt Martha=s and says Ida wants herself and Frannie to come over and stay a little while. May they go? Yes. Follen comes in from the office where he has been studying his lessons. Will Cresson and Joe are also coming in. Carrie is in bed, so Tacie and Susan. Mother and Mary away at Gwynedd. I must close for my eyes are hurting me.

October 20: Monday.

I went to Norristown to see William in the morning about 9 o'clock. He had just started to Annapolis to see Thomas Corson, assistant surgeon, sick with typhoid fever. The people came pouring into the office to see Athe Doctor@, anxious to get rid of the draft. Some had not attended the appeal, others had thought themselves exempt, and some came, in hope that there was some way by which they might escape. I referred them all to Dr. Baker who was assistant to William.



On return at noon I was informed that the hired man Dan had agreed to go as a substitute for Edwin Kirk for the sum of \$300. In the evening, Kirk and a man [he] was wanting to hire as a substitute came over to arrange with Dan. Dan raised his price to \$400 and a suit of clothes. Kirk then hired the other man for \$400. John Burns came in a few minutes after to see about a substitute, but he is not willing to give more than \$200. There is a great excitement among those who are drafted.

October 21: Tuesday.

I went to Philad. to see Edward on the ship, and also to see Dr. Hopkinson in relation to the Chestnut Hill Hospital. Dr. Condie has written me that I could have a situation in it if I will take it. I saw Dr. H., but as he does not intend to have any consulting physicians, I would not take a place as a physician of a ward. The hospital is to be immense in size, fifty wards of sixty patients each and one physician to each ward. Salary \$80 per mo. When I got to the ship to see Edward, he had just gone off to see me and to go out with me in the 3 P.M. cars. I came back to the cars and we came out home together. Follen also came out with us, from the college. He goes up and down every day in the cars. Edward was told by the Captn. today that they would sail day after tomorrow at noon, so he came out to see us all and to bid goodbye. He took leave at 6 P.M. and returned to the city. Carrie and myself then crossed at Conshohocken and visited a few patients for William and then went to Norristown, saw some more and got home at 9 P.M.

October 22: Wednesday.

As I had no opportunity to examine the ship yesterday, I went down today at 7 A.M., taking Follen with me. Before 9 A.M. we were up toward the ship which was far out in the stream. Edward received us and showed us all over the vessel. They have two 11 inch guns for shell[s] which they will throw several miles, one hundred pound ball rifled cannon, 4 32 pounders, about 170 men. Edward is Surgeon-in-Chief. Follen could stay but a short time having to be at college at ten o'clock, so he left us and I staid with Edward until 11 o'clock. He has a very snug little room and they have a fine light ward-room. His bed and other fixtures are very complete. His salary is 2200 Dollars per year. I was introduced to the officers and then came to the Navy Yard, and I was introduced to Doctor Green, the Surgeon and Dr.[blank space, no name given], the assistant surgeon and Dr. McClellan of the receiving ship. Here at nearly 12 o'clock noon I parted with Edward and taking the cars came up to the university to listen to Doctor Carson's clinical lecture. At one and half P.M. I took the cars for home, where I arrived at 3 P.M. Edward expects to sail tomorrow at noon.

October 24: Friday.

By the papers of today we see that the Mohican sailed yesterday at 10 A.M. This morning I received a letter from Edward stating that they sailed on Thursday at 10 A.M. and that just as they were starting (at which time he wrote) they received orders to go in quest of the Alabama, a rebel pirate steamer which is seizing and burning our merchant vessels. But this is a secret and we must so regard it.

The drafted men have been very busy this week getting substitutes, the common price is \$400 and a suit of clothes. Our Dan got \$500 from Channing Potts, and also the

clothes. Today and yest[erday] brother William has been examining some of the drafted men, who are unfit for duty, but who did not come up to be exempt. I went up this afternoon and found a croud at his office. Oh! How eager they were, and how many of them did exaggerate, but it was not easy to deceive so practiced a physician. The sufferings of some of those drafted men are very great, and families are also in much distress.

October 26: Sunday.

Edward has gone. Joseph leaves home tomorrow to attend lectures. He has lost about 2 weeks of the course. Follen goes every day but Saturday to college. Dan will also go tomorrow to the Army. So I will have no man but Isaac Shaw who has been with me now since July 5, 1842. He is a faithful man, but in some respects objectionable to many.

It is not yet breakfast time and now in the dawn of this new day let one resolve to improve it by high resolves to do Right in all things. H. Corson.

November 9: Sunday.

Two weeks have elapsed since I last wrote, since which [time] many things have happened, being Dan McClurey, my hired man, went Monday morning, Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>, as a substitute for Channing Potts our near neighbor, who gave him \$500 and a suit of clothes for the 9 months service. Joseph came home last Sunday. He was quite well and happy, since [he is] at the hospital and attends lectures at the university.

The elections in several of the prominent Northern States have gone for the Democrats, which seems a rebuke to the Administration. Some think it is owing to the dullness of the army operations. McClellan is moving at a snails pace for the last two weeks, so slow indeed that I have nothing to record of their doings.

We have heard nothing from Edward since his letter while yet in the Delaware River, but the newspapers say five large steam vessels have gone after the Alabama. W. Cresson came up this morning bringing with him the Sunday Dispatch, in which I find that McClellan was yesterday relieved of the Command of the Army of the Potomac, and Genl. Burnside was invested with it. This will be joyful news to thousands of our people, who have distrusted AMac@ for a long time. Others, who did not think him disloyal, believe him destitute of a genius for brilliant enterprize. I am glad he is dispossessed. He was painfully slow, to say no worse of him.

The drafted men and the substitutes have gathered slowly to the encampment in West Philadelphia. Dan came home this morning and says they will soon be ready to send a corporals guard from each Regt. to bring in those who have not presented themselves. Many of the lawyers throughout the State took fees from the drafted men and advised them to go home and not mind the draft, that according to the law of 1791, the government could only inflict a fine, at most, of only 156 Dollars. In our County, Rodman Fox, B.M. Boyer and some others were those who thus acted.

The Commissioner reported them to the Governor, who ordered them under arrest. They were exceedingly frightened and as they came forward and promised to undo their work and bring forward their men, they were excused from arrest.

Yesterday morning, Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>, broke upon us with a tremendous snow storm from the East. It lasted through the entire day; the thermometer being at about 31E at sunrise

and freezing moderately through the day. This morning it is still snowing, but it has snowed but little through the night. Now 3 P.M., it has eased snowing. The wind is N.W. and the thermometer 36° We went to Mr. Whitall at 10 A.M.. Dan drove Follen and myself in the two horse sleigh. It was bad sleighing, the snow having melted very much on the warm ground, but still there was a great snow. Some of our apples are still out, and very few people have all their corn husked. We have about half of ours done.

November 27: Thursday.

Thanksgiving Day. Since I last wrote, Burnside has moved his forces rapidly and last Saturday his advance under Genl. Sumner, was at Falmouth, on the Rappahannock, opposite Fredericksburg and had demanded the surrender of the town. A few hours were asked to remove the women and children, then a few more, and this while the forces under Lee were preparing to resist the passage of the river. So even now, Thursday 27<sup>th</sup>, they are still not across the river. The rebels will make a stand and if so, a dreadful battle will be fought, for Genl. Burnside is to move on at all hazards. I rec'd. a letter today from Dr. C. Styer; he is at Falmouth and daily looking for a battle. They have had a severe march, four days without anything like bread or crackers, or fresh meat and corn on the cob. Some of the men punched holes in their tin cups to make graters to grate the corn, so that they could boil it to eat. At the same time there were thousands of bushels of corn and wheat secreted under stacks by the rebel farmers and good mills in the neighborhood, all of which our soldiers had to guard to keep the men from taking anything. This was by order of Burns, the commander of the corps or division. Is this not accursed, how much longer are we to have this fooling carried on.

We have intelligence from the newspaper and also from Edward that the Mohican was damaged by the severe storms and had to put into Bermuda on the last day of October. In a few days they expect to leave for the Cape de Verd Islands. Joseph came out to meet Carrie, Tacie and Jennie Brinton, at Mr. James Cresson last evening. He found a large party there. Mr. Jacobs from the Valley came here directly after the girls started yesterday, and we lent him a carriage to go after them. He got there and spent the evening with them, and then brought Carrie home, while Jos., Uncle Jessie, Tacie and Jennie came in the carriage that they met in.

I was in the city yesterday to see Professor Smith and buy a few articles, returned in the 11 A.M. car.

Dan, our hired man, spent an hour with us this evening. [He] had just come from the Camp, to see us once more, before leaving for Washington, where they are to go tomorrow. He was sober and in pretty good spirits, but would rather be at home I think.

I had to assist Doctor Leedom in a most difficult case of obstetrics since night fall (it is now 11 P.M.). We turned and delivered. Child died. Woman will die for she had a ruptured uterus six hours before I saw her, and I know she will die.

December 1: Monday.

Evening, Mother (i.e. the children's mother) went to see brother-in-law Thos. Wistar last 6<sup>th</sup> day. She went with his father in the carriage, he having come up for her, as his son is very poorly with softening of the brain. He will not recover, the doctors say.

Dan, our hired man, has returned today for the fourth time to Abid us good bye." Last week he left the ranks of the drafted men, as he had the privilege to do, and joined a

cavalry company for 3 years. (The government has been quite shrewd, in getting many of the drafted men to thus go for 3 years). He is dressed very finely. He got 500 Dols. from Mr. Potts to go for him and now he says he is to have \$300 bounty to go for three years. He has a furlough till Dec. 5th. The children have got pretty near tired of taking leave of him for the last time.

Tacie and I are now writing letters. Carrie and her friend Miss Jennie Brinton are in the parlor playing on [the] piano and singing. Bertha and Frannie have just this moment been here showing me some Daguerreotypes of themselves and their cousins Helen and Ida Corson, taken some years ago. They had a fine laugh over them. Little Mary is trotting after them out into the kitchen where they have gone to show them to AAnn and Lizzie, @ while Susan is intent as usual over a book in the parlor undisturbed by all the music. Follen having gone over his lessons is stretched out on the sofa. It is now just 9 P.M. No war news of consequence today, though we hear this evening that the President=s message was read to Congress today, and is in the evening papers. It is said to displease the radical Republicans. This is the first day of the Congress.

Wrote to Dr. C. Styer, asst. surgeon 45<sup>th</sup> Regt. and also a reply to a letter received from Dr. Holman. Have also practiced a good deal today.

Saw an announcement in the paper today that the Mohican did not leave their post in of Bermuda until the 18<sup>th</sup> Nov.

Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> rec'd. a letter from Dr. Oberholtzer asking me to use my influence with Surgeon General King to have him promoted to a full surgeoncy. Wrote a strong letter on recommendation and enclosed Dr. O's letter. Also spoke highly to him of Doctors Comfort and Styer asking him to promote Dr. C. Styer and Dr. Comfort also, on the first opportunity. I said their claims to promotion on their temperance, morality, medical ability and unswerving loyalty.

December 5: Friday.

Practiced much today. Snowed heavily after 4 P.M. until bed time. Carrie, Tacie, Susan and Jennie Brinton have gone to D. L. Woods to a small party given to them. Joseph was to have come up to it, but he has declined doing so, but will be up on Sunday as we expect. Miss Molly Thomas [will be] here tomorrow to stay for a few days. Follen has been hard at his lessons. He is in the Senior Class of the University and his studies are very hard. Little Mary is sitting at my left side bothering her mother (who sits close to her left side and is busy with a frock for her) with innumerable questions.

December 25: Thursday.

Christmas. This morning there are at home only Jos., Carrie, Tacie, Follen and Susan. Mother, Bertha, Frannie and Mary have gone away. The latter to Uncle C. Bacon's in Philad. and the other three to New Hope to Uncle Chas. Foulke. Mary Thomas and Jennie Brinton went away from here, after Mary had been here for a few days. We had a very pleasant visit from them.

Since we last wrote there has been a dreadful battle at Fredericksburg, in which we lost about 10,000 men in killed, wounded and missing. The whole country seemed inclined to lay the blame on the Pres't., Sec. of War and General Halleck, but fortunately Gen=l. Burnside did not allow them to fasten the blame on them, but nobly came forward and took the responsibility himself. Although we were defeated, I look upon the battle as

positively necessary. The country wanted the move to Richmond. Secondly, he did not know, but the fortifications were like those at Manasses, which were only a sham and yet kept McClellan at bay for three months. It was a brilliant military achievement in my opinion. I would like to know how it will be considered in a quarter of a century to come.

December 27: Saturday.

Rec'd. a letter from Dr. Lewis W. Read, Div. Surgeon of the 1<sup>st</sup> Army Corps, 3<sup>rd</sup> Div., that my friend Dr. Comfort, asst. surgeon of the 121<sup>st</sup> Regt. Pa. Vol., for whose promotion I have been asking Dr. King, has been made surgeon of the Kane Rifles, or Buck-Tail Rifles. I also rec'd a letter from my former pupil Dr. Levi Oberholtzer this morning saying that I have also gotten his promotion for a surgeency of the 132 Regt. Pa. Vol.

I also rec'd. a letter from Dr. C. Styer, a former pupil, asking me to write Doctor King (Surgeon Genl. of Pa.) for his promotion.

I rec'd. three other letters today. One from Amother@, one from Danl. Brown, Washington City, with documents. One from Dr. Diccon asking me to consult with him in Thos. Wistar=s case, also one from Belle Bush of Norristown, with her poems enclosed. This is the second letter from Miss Bush. I wrote to her sometimes gen. complimenting her on her poetic talents and asked her to sent me one poem which I wished to see. She immediately replied and sent me several pieces. The letter of today was also accompanied by two new pieces and was an inquiry in relation to the reception of her former letters. I consider Miss Bush quite a Poetress and with some encouragements may become quite celebrated.

We have not heard of Edward since Oct. 18th and then only of the ship through the papers.

Yesterday [a] week I delivered a lecture on the subject of Public Schools, before the Teachers Institute in Jenkintown. Susan accompanied me, and paid a visit to Thos. Wistar and took tea there. He has been poorly for a long time and for some weeks the doctors here Agiven him up.@ I think him hypochondriacal. They think he has softening of the brain and cannot recover, or ever live, but a short time.

Follen and the girls went last evening to hear the Black Swan sing at Norristown for the benefit of the soldiers.

Jos., Sam, Carrie and Tacie have been very merry this evening around the table where I write. Follen and Susan are away (now 9 2 P.M.) at C. Williams at a party given to the young ones, scarcely yet out.

I have been reading Miss Cooks poetry, and some of Grace Greenwoods this evening.

**Editor's note:** Between the above dated entries, Dr. Corson pasted a Ten Dollar Confederate Note which nine year old Annie Bacon sent in her letter to her ten year old cousin, little Mary Corson, referring to it as Aa rebel note."

December 28: Sunday.

Evening. Joseph and I have been practicing a good deal today. W. Cresson was here all day and C. Lukens and cousin called after dinner. The children got home after

midnight from Williams' where they had quite a large party. My nephew R.R. Corson<sup>ciii</sup> came home from the Army today. He was on the staff of General Bayard,<sup>civ</sup> and was close to him when he was killed. He was also, at Bayard's request, detailed to take his body home. He thinks there will be a big battle in two weeks.

## 1863

January 1: Thursday.

This has been a moderate week. On last Sunday afternoon John Bacon came from Philad. to tell us that Thomas Wistar, my brother-in-law, was to be buried on the following Tuesday. I went. Met Nancy at the home of Joshua Morris, 10<sup>th</sup> St. near Race, and we went together to the grave yard, about three miles beyond Market Street Bridge, west of Schuylkill. He was ill for several months. Got home at 4 P.M. Practiced a good deal afterwards.

I wrote a complimentary notice of Miss Belle Bush, a young lady of Norristown, who has been occasionally writing poetry. It will be out in this weeks paper.

The weather has been very mild for two weeks, which has been very fortunate for our poor wounded soldiers. I received a letter from Doctor Comfort, now surgeon of the Buck-Tail Regt., giving me an account of his labors among the wounded at the Battle of Fredericksburg. He says that the mild weather was most fortunate for them. Hundreds would have perished that now will be saved.

Letter from C. Styer today for whom I am trying to get promotion to a surgeoncy.

We have heard not a word of Edward yet. Within the last week we have had two awful battles, and we have been greatly excited. One occurred at Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and the other at Vicksburg, Mississippi. The first fought by Rosecrans who, after 5 days fighting, drove Johnson and Bragg before him with great slaughter. Our loss was about 6000 in killed, wounded and missing. There is much anxiety here and in Philad. on account of a report that the Anderson Troop, which is composed of rich young men of Pa., was sadly cut up at Murfreesboro. A number of our friends are in it.

January 11: Sunday.

Yesterday we had a medical meeting at Norristown. There were but few present, so many of our members having gone to war. On Friday last, Nancy and self went to Robt. R. Potts to see Mrs. Rodgers, wife of Dr. Rodgers Jr., son of my Acollege chum@, in the year 1827, now residing in Ohio.

The battle of Murfreesboro was a great victory for us.

Last Thursday, Mary Roberts (my niece) and myself paid a visit to Miss Belle Bush, who is now writing poetry, and to whom I am calling attention as a poetress of some note. Pleasant visit.

Today I have practiced from 6 A.M. until 9 P.M. without intermission. Joseph came up on Saturday morning and staid till this morning.

The controversy about the Anderson Troop, is waxing severe. Only about 300 went into the battle, and the remainder, about 700, are considered disgraced. They mutinied, and Gen=l. Rosecrans ordered a Battery of Artillery to be brought up. This is a deep mortification to the parents and brothers and sisters. Many have declared that they would rather have heard of their deaths.

January 21: Wednesday.

Since last writing, I had a letter from Doctor Comfort, who wishes some delicious dried fruits sent to him for the sick. Today our Ladies [Army] Aid Society sent him a monstrous box of almost every variety of dried fruits, preserves, pickles, &c., besides an immense of stockings, shirts, drawers, Hkffs., &c., &c., &c. I was out yesterday to see the Society pack the things. There they were, 15 ladies, busy as bees. This morning I labeled the boxes and started them off. The ladies were Mrs. Martha Corson, Mrs. Anna J. Corson, Mrs. Mary Keys, Mrs. Ann Gilbert, Mrs. Susan Leedom, Mrs. Rachel Livezey, Miss Caldwell, Caroline Corson, Catherine Evans, Susan Corson, Susan Yerkes, Eliza Garretson, Hannah Coulston, Bertha, Ida and Nancy Corson, Mrs. Martha Styer, Mrs. Sarah Styer, Miss Helen Corson.

No important movement of the Army east of the Mississippi since the Battle of Murfreesboro, but last week we had the week of the victory at Arkansas Post, where we took nearly 7000 prisoners and all the stores and arms. This was an important victory. There are rumors tonight that a great part of the Army of the Potomac will be sent to reinforce Rosecrans.

Last week I had a visit of 3 days from W. H. Johnson. We had a very pleasant time. The last evening he was here, we went to Norristown to hear the Hutchinson family sing. Mr. John Hutchinson, his wife, daughter of 16, and two sons, one of 8 and the other perhaps 12. I got a photograph of the 3 children. After the singing, we had an interview with Belle Bush. Mr. Johnson is to write a notice of her poetry, as of the subject had been brot to his mind by my effusion, of course. Miss Bush is not cognizant of this.

February 15: Sunday.

After the appearance of an article, which I wrote and published in the ARepublican@, Belle Bush wrote a poem, entitled AThe Angel and The Artist@, which I sent to O. W. Holmes, the Boston poet, for his opinion of its merits. Yesterday I rec'd. his answer. He thinks it has much merit, but it is counter balanced by being an imitation of the style and even the affectations of the poet Longfellow.

The war has been working on since last writing, without any great battles, though there have been many small fights, and great preparations for attacking forts. About 10 days ago, the Rebels made a night attack by gun boats and Iron Rams, from Charleston, on our blockading fleet, in order to recapture the Princess Royal, which had been taken by us and was lying off the Harbor. They failed, but coming so unexpectedly on our fleet at night, they did thus some damage, and Beauregard, who is in command at Charleston, issued a proclamation that the blockade was raised.

We had a letter from Edward last week in January from Porte Grande, Island of St. Vincent, and another about 8<sup>th</sup> of Febr. from [the] same place. All well. He says he is having a pleasant time.

Joseph and Ellwood had a desire this day a week ago to go as surgeons on board the Iron Rams on the Mississippi River, and Ellwood came up to let me know that they now offered the places and to see what I thought of it. I advised them not to do it, but first to graduate (by the way they were to graduate even before doing that) and then if they desired it to be examined for the regular Army or Navy as they might prefer.

Last evening Joseph came up and wished to see me in reference to his trying for the Army. Dr. Carson had given him a complimentary letter to the Secretary of War for

permission to be examined. This morning at 7 he returned to Philad. to labor night and day to prepare himself. I practiced this forenoon, and this afternoon I have been reading Count Gasparin's Europe before America [America before Europe], a very interesting work.

**Editor's note:** At this point in diary book No. 4, Dr. Corson pasted a copy of **THE SOLDIERS= GUIDE IN PHILADELPHIA**, a very small pamphlet, and newspaper clippings regarding **THE ANDERSON CAVALRY, ROLL OF HONOR**, with the names of the Men who stood by their Colors, as well as Major General Rosecrans' order regarding the Anderson Troop after the Battle of Murfreesboro.

**THE SOLDIERS= GUIDE** gives instructions to discharged soldiers and to soldiers going west, giving distances in miles to various cities and train schedules from Philadelphia to New York. For soldiers passing through Philadelphia, it lists places of interest in Philadelphia. The Guide lists the following command structure:

**Head Quarters Military Commander-Brig. Gen. Montgomery,**

No. 1103 Girard Street, front room, 2d floor.

**Medical Director- Dr. KING,**

No. 1103 Girard Street, front room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor.

**Medical Director of Transp=n-Dr. A. K. SMITH,**

No. 1103 Girard Street, back room, 2d floor.

**Paymaster-Maj. TAGGART,**

No. 1102 Girard Street, front room, 2d floor.

**Commissary-Capt. BUCK,**

No. 1102 Girard Street, front room, 2d floor.

**Mustering Officer-Col. RUFF,**

No. 1102 Girard Street, front room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor.

**Dep.Qr.Master Gen.-(Clothing) Col. Crosman,**

No. 1139 Girard Street, front room, 2d floor.

**Asst.Qr.Master (Transportation)-Capt. BOYD,**

No. 1139 Girard Street, front room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor.

**Provost Marshal-Capt. J. ORR FINNIE,**

Second Street above Walnut, (Old Penna Bank.)

**New England Soldiers= Relief Association,**

Chestnut Street near Thirteenth

**Refreshment Saloons-AUnion@ & ACooper Shop,@**

Foot of Washington Street, and on Otsego Street.

**Soldiers= Reading Room,**

Twentieth Street below Market.

**Free Masons Soldiers= Relief Association,**

Office, 204 South 4<sup>th</sup> St.

The Guide also lists the U.S. Army Hospitals in Philadelphia, with their location, number of beds and surgeon in charge:



<b>Hospital.</b>	<b>Location.</b>	<b>No.Beds</b>	<b>Surg. In charge</b>
Chestnut Hill,(just op'd)	Chestnut Hill	4000	J. Hopkinson
West Philadelphia,	44 <sup>th</sup> and Pine,	2000	I. I. Hayes
Summit House,	Darby Road,	522	Winthrop Sargent
Hestonville,	Hestonville,(Vine St cars)	172	D. Hayes Agnew
Haddington,	Haddington,(Mkt.St cars)	200	R. J. Levis
Germantown,	Germantown,	550	James Darrach
Chester,	Chester,	945	J. L. LeConte
Small Pox Hospital,	Islington Lane,	50	J. B. Patterson
Turner=s Land, (German,)	Turner=s Lane	275	E. S. Dunster
Officers= Hospital,	Camac's Woods,	50	Wm. M. Camac
Episcopal,	Front & York,(5th St cars)	325	Robt. P. Thomas
Broad Street,	Broad and Cherry,	650	John Neill
St. Josephs,	Girard Avenue near 17 <sup>th</sup> ,	150	W. P. Moon
Master Street,	6 <sup>th</sup> and Master,	305	Paul B. Godard
George Street,	4 <sup>th</sup> and George,	225	Lewis D. Harlow
Fifth Street,	5 <sup>th</sup> and Buttonwood	282	A. C. Bournonville
Race Street,	6 <sup>th</sup> and Race,	412	David Burpee
Twelfth Street,	12 <sup>th</sup> and Buttonwood,	152	Thos. G. Morton
Filbert Street,	16 <sup>th</sup> and Filbert,	430	Wm. M. Breed
South Street,	24 <sup>th</sup> and South	253	Harry C. Hart
Christian Street,	9 <sup>th</sup> and Christian,	220	J. J. Reese
Catharine Street,	8 <sup>th</sup> and Catharine,	105	Robt. R. Taylor
Wood Street,	22d and Wood,	175	Caleb W. Horner
Citizens= Volunteer	Broad and Prime	400	R. S. Kenderline

February 24: Tuesday.

Rec'd. a letter from Charles Styer from Baltimore. Tells me he has resigned because he cannot find his Regiment. Poor excuse.

February 26: Thursday.

Evening. Since last writing there has been great note of preparation for attacks on Charleston, Vicksburg, Savannah and other places, but as yet nothing has occurred. The weather has been alternately cold and warm, wet and dry, sleet and snow, and the roads have been so horrible that no Army could move. There [are] a good many officers at home from the Army of the Potomac. My nephew Jos. C. Read came home a few days ago. He has been away about 15 months, and in many bloody battles. He is Quarter Master of an Army Corps.

Congress is busy and excited, passing the Financial Bill, the Conscription Bill, the Bill for Arming Negroes, Bill for sustaining the President and his Emancipation policy, and for his suspension of Habeus Corpus, &c.

My student Dr. C. Styer has resigned his situation as surgeon in the Army and returned home. I am sorry for it, as he had just been promoted. They may not accept his resignation, but may dismiss him dishonorably.

For two weeks past our house has been a scene of great industry. Mother and the girls, including even little Mary, all engaged in preparing articles for a Fair for the soldiers, to be held tomorrow, out in the Methodist Meeting House, upstairs. They are all at it this evening, and the thing is to come off tomorrow evening and next day (Saturday). They have made many very nice things.

Joseph and Ellwood are under examination this week. It is a week or two premature, but is done so that they may be examined for assistant surgeons in the Vol. Army. They will finish tomorrow and will be up tomorrow evening.

Joseph C. Read, my nephew, Chief Commissary in the Army of the Potomac came home to Norristown on the 25<sup>th</sup> after an absence of 15 months.

February 28: Saturday.

Last evening the ladies held their fair, or rather the fair begun by the little girls of our school. Bertha, Frannie and Mary were nearly crazy with excitement. All this afternoon, Mother, Carrie, Tacie, Susan, and all the little girls, Aunt Martha and her girls and various other ladies were there all this afternoon, fixing the things. In the evening the people came crowding in until it was a perfect Jam. They took about \$60.00. Today there was a slim attendance, but they sold about \$30.00 during the afternoon. This evening the sales amounted to about \$100.00. So in all they have realized about \$180.00.

Joseph came up this evening, having gotten through with the examination by the professors.

March 1: Sunday.

Morning. Ellwood and Mr. Tyson came up this morning. Ell has passed his examination, and Mr. Tyson will commence to be examined tomorrow.

Lewis W. Read, Division Surgeon in the Army of the Potomac, returned yesterday. He has been away since last October one year ago. He returns to act as President of the Examining Board for surgeons of the Pa. Regts. The Board will commence in Philad. next Tuesday. Joseph and Ellwood will present themselves for examination.

The weather has been deplorable for the past month, and I have been poorly with a bad cold, but now within a few days am much better, today pretty well.

Sunday evening. Did not get out today to practice until after supper. Read and wrote all day. All the children [are] at home but Edward. Agnes Bacon and Will Cresson [are] also here.

Febr. 3rd 1863 Mother rec'd. a letter from Edward from Port Praya, Cape de Verd Islands. [It] began on Christmas Day, and finished on January 8<sup>th</sup>. They had been chasing about the Islands for a week after the 290,<sup>cv</sup> reports being rife then that she was cruising about there. They of course did not find her. Edward seems to be enjoying himself.

Joseph and Ellwood went to the city this morning to see if they could find the Examining Board. Jos. returned this evening. The Board met at 11 A.M. They are to be examined tomorrow.

Charles Lukens, Emma Wood, Anna Harry, Clara Wood, Helen Wood and David Harry are all in the room, and with our children are dancing (10 P.M.). Mother is serving in the dining room, Frannie, Bertha and Mary are working at little matters and I am writing. I finished reading Count Gasparin's America before Europe at 9 P.M. Great book!

Last week we heard that Athe Ram, Queen of the West,@ was taken by the Rebels. As this was our best Western Iron Clad, it was a great loss. Today we hear with great sorrow that the Iron Clad Indianola, her Consort, has also been captured. Bad Management.

Evening. Snowing very fast. Yesterday was the commencement day at the University (med. department). Joseph and Ellwood rec'd. their diplomas. Joseph had

gone on Friday to Mr. Brinton's at W. Chester and next morning the girls, Jennie and Josie accompanied him to the city and joined Carrie, Tacie, Susan, Follen, Aunt Susan, Jesse, Agnes Bacon and others and all attended the commencement.

Joseph and Ellwood were examined by the Medical Board of the Army, consisting of Surgeon Gen'l. King, Asst. Surgeon Gen'l. Green, Surgeons L. W. Read, Rhorer, and Lane, and of the 56 who were examined there was only one before them, a man of 35 from Pittsburgh long in the profession.

On Thursday last the boys rec'd. a letter from the Surgeon Gen'l. asking when they would be ready to take the field, to which they replied, Aimmmediately. So they are now looking for the Order. They have been very busy this past week, getting their outfit and looking for horses. Joseph has concluded to take one of ours, a black mare. Ellwood has bought one, but this morning finds her lame.

While the children were all at the commencement on Saturday, Aunt Martha and Sam, and Mother and self were attending the funeral of little Ella Roberts, daughter of my niece Mary Roberts, wife of John Roberts.

March 15: Sunday.

Joseph and Will Cresson started for Germantown about 8 P.M., so that Joseph might pay a little visit to Mr. Cresson's family and return by the morning cars. Charles Lukens and David Harry had come up to see Joseph, and they staid with us until 10 o'clock.

A report comes by today's paper that our forces on the Mississippi have taken Yazoo City, a number of Rebel vessels, and 7000 prisoners. With this exception, we have had but little change in Army affairs since my last writing, save perhaps that we destroyed the Nashville before Savannah and captured some good prizes, trying to run the blockade.

March 20: Friday.

Thursday last, 19<sup>th</sup>, Joseph and Ellwood rec'd., by mail, their commission as assistant surgeons, the former in the 35<sup>th</sup> Reg. Pa. Vol., sometimes called the 6<sup>th</sup> Pa. Reserves, and the latter in the Col. Owens Pa. Regt. They were ordered to report to Washington immediately. They have been preparing for a whole week, and today, 20<sup>th</sup>, they left us at 10 2 A.M. to take the cars at Conshohocken. Ellwood came to bid us farewell and then was taken down by Helen. Caroline and Tacie took Joseph to the cars. They were in fine spirits. Their horses had been taken to the City by Aunt Martha=s hired man early in the morning. They will be started in the cars at 6 P.M. today, while the Aboys@ will not go till 11 P.M. Jos. took our black mare, and Ellwood took his Mother's bay. When Jos. was all ready to go, we sent down to bring the girls from the school-house, and he bid us all good bye, and left us. It is still a trial to thus send[ing] the boys off, but it is not so keen a suffering as it was the first time Joseph left. We were then

unused to war, and he went as a private. His situation is now as desirable a one as he could have in the Army.

My former pupil, Doctor Levi Oberholtzer, Surgeon in the 147<sup>th</sup> Regt. Pa. Vol. wrote a letter to the editor of the Phoenixville newspaper in which he spoke disrespectfully of the President, and for which he was dismissed by the following order:

DISMISSED FROM THE SERVICE.- By a general order issued by Major General Hooker, Surgeon Levi Oberholtzer, 147<sup>th</sup> Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers, has been dismissed with disgrace from the military service of the United States, subject to the approval of the President, for disloyalty to the Government he pretended to serve and has sworn to support.

**Editors note:** The following newspaper clipping is also pasted into the diary at this point:

DISMISSED FROM THE SERVICE.- The following-named Pennsylvania and New Jersey officers have been dismissed from the service for absence without authority, and failing to report at headquarters as ordered:  
Lieut. Michael Claney, 5<sup>th</sup> New Jersey Vols.  
Surg. Chas. Styer, 99<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Vols.  
Asst. Surg. J. H. Hassenplug, 109th Pa. Vols.  
Lieut. A. Thompson, 111<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Vols.  
Second Lieut. Geo. W. Powell, 121<sup>st</sup> Pa. Vols.  
Lieut. Otto L. Forslon, Battery G, 107<sup>th</sup> Pa. Vols.  
Lieut. Chas. H. Raymon, 121<sup>st</sup> Pa. Vols.  
Capt. Peter Beisel, 78<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Vols.

Hiram Corson notes the following about the clipping: A Doctor Charles Styer dismissed, but with privilege of reporting within 15 days after the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March to General Ricketts, and showing cause why they may be retained. @

Also pasted in the diary is a newspaper comment on the suicide death of Laurence Ogdon of Norristown.

April 5: Sunday.

Hooker succeeded gloriously. This mornings news is good. He is fighting them at Chancellorsville. The afternoon news, by telegraph, says he is on the heights of Fredericksburg with his left wing, that our troops have the city, that in hours [took] 2000 prisoners, several batteries, &c., &c. Some of our high officers have been killed. The great battle has not yet been fought, or at least we have not heard of it. Tomorrow will tell the tale of victory or defeat, I think. I have written this evening to surgeon David H. Reed, Med. Director at Suffolk and to Dr. Styer of the 99<sup>th</sup>.

We rec'd. a letter from Joseph today. He is not in the battle, but Ellwood's Regiment is participating and I expect he has seen the horrors of the battle field.

The Queen of the West captured by the Rebels some weeks ago has been destroyed by Genl. Banks.

Rumors are rife that Hooker is likely to be driven into the river. It appears that Sedgwick occupies Fredericksburg, and Hooker is at Chancellorsville, but owing to the

giving way of some German Troops, he had to give way and form a new line. But we hear nothing from him, everything is doubt and conjecture. The people are becoming dreadfully excited. We only know that the fight has been going on for days and that the enemy are in great numbers, and that our men have fallen back nearer to the Rapidan, that Sedgwick had to evacuate Fredericksburg with great loss, that the storm and rain are rendering Hooker's situation desperate, for his food will soon run out, and if the river should rise at all, he cannot receive supplies, nor get across the river. We wait in anxiety.

April 6: Monday.

Crowds are early at the rail road stations and telegraph offices. They seize the papers. The accounts are and seem, contradictory and unreliable. Hooker is reported across the Rapidan and Rappahannock in his old quarters, without losing a gun or a man in the crossing. The fight has been dreadful. We have taken many thousands of prisoners. Speaking for myself, I feel glad that Hooker has returned, but the accounts are so contradictory that I have a fear that, as we have had a most violent rain for several days, the river will be so swollen as to prevent his retreat. I confess I feel oppressed today wrote the ----- of our situation. There is a general fear. 4 P.M., I met Mother and Follen at the Spring Mill cars, when they came up from Philad. They brought a Bulletin which officially announces the safety of Hooker and his arrival at his old ground this side the Rappahannock. I breathe more freely, a load is off my mind.

Genl. Stoneman who went with 16,000 cavalry to destroy bridges below Fredericksburg succeeded admirably. He penetrated within 6 miles of Richmond, destroying everything as he went, and rail roads and telegraphs.

April 7: Tuesday.

Since Jos. and Ellwood left home we have had letters from them. They left Friday night at 11 o'clock by the cars, Broad and Pine, arrived in Washington at 6 A.M., their horses at 2 P.M. on Sunday, got all their fixings for the horses before night. Next day [they] visited surgeon George Maulsby of [the] U.S. Navy, Ellwood's Uncle.

On Monday morning they took leave of each other, Ellwood taking the steam boat to Acquia Creek on his way to Falmouth (in front of Fredericksburg), and Joseph going on his mare across the bridge at George Town to Upton's Hill, a few miles from Washington in Virginia, to the Headquarters of his Division where he found his cousin surgeon Lewis W. Read, who introduced him to the officers, and with whom he dined. After dinner they sent an orderly to accompany him to his Regiment at Fairfax, 13 miles distant. As they were going along, he met Adan, our man, who went as a substitute for one of the drafted men and subsequently entered the Continental Cavalry; Dan was delighted to see him, and also to see the black mare. After many inquiries about us all, they parted and Joseph reached his Regt. before night. He found that he was within a few hundred yards of Doctor Comfort, so went over to see him and staid with him all night.

We rec'd. a letter from him today. He is the only surgeon in his Regt. He says he thinks it a great compliment, for nearly every other Regt. has two, and many of them three medical officers.

Tacie rec'd. a letter today from Minnie Stockton, who is quite intimate with Surgeon Genl. King, who told her that Joseph and Ellwood were the best prepared of all whom they examined, and that Joseph was the best of all.

This evening Saml. came home and told us that they had a letter from Ellwood. He is in fine spirits. 400 men of their division are on picket, in front of the enemy every night, and the surgeons have to take turns in accompanying the pickets. Ellwood was out, one of the wet nights of last week. He stretched himself on his oil cloth and covered himself as well as he could, and when he awoke in the morning his feet were nearly frozen, they having been uncovered all night.

There has been but little war news for two weeks, but nevertheless our forces are acting everywhere but in Virginia, where the roads are impassable.

We have rebel news today that the attack is being made by our troops on Charleston.

Sam and Helen, Follen, Tacie and Susan have all gone to Norristown this evening to hear Daniel Daugherty speak for the war.

April 8: Wednesday.

This evening Bulletin contains an official statement from the Sec. of War that the President himself had visited Genl. Hooker, and that they found the Army in good condition, that not one third if them had been engaged, that he has been heavily reinforced by Genl. Heintzelman, and that offensive operations will be immediately resumed. We are becoming more cheerful.

May 3: Sunday.

Since writing before, I have been greatly engaged and the war news has been of but little account, so far as great battles are concerned, save that the attack on Charleston, which was a failure, and some successful battles by Banks, in Louisiana, about two weeks ago.

Grant passed the Batteries at Vicksburg, with his Army, in transport. There has been no news of any kind from the Army of the Potomac for about 10 days.

Today Saml. got a letter from Ellwood, dated several days ago, that all [of] Hooker's Army but the division in which he (Ellwood) is had left with eight days rations to cross the Rappahannock above and below Fredericksburg. And now we hear news by the Sunday papers that the Army began to cross, early part of last week, and that they are all over, above and below that city. Prisoners are coming to Washington and being sent to AOld Capitol Prison,@ all the rest is uncertainty. Some have it that we have been repulsed with great loss. But as the Telegraph is in the hands of the Government not a line comes by it except for the War Department. We must wait patiently until tomorrow. Hooker in this case has separated his Army crossing the two bodies over the river at the same time but distant from each other about 25 miles. This is not generally considered a good plan by military men. Tomorrow we will likely hear something more. Until that time anxiety will prevail over the country.

We have had several letters from Joseph within three weeks. He is in fine spirits and is yet at Fairfax Station, on the Orange and Alexandria Rail Road.

Robt. R. Corson and wife came here this morning. They brot a letter from Joseph in which he says they are reported to be likely moved towards Hooker's Army (they belonging to the Defenses of Washington).

Doctor Comfort was here a week ago, for about half an hour. He had a furlough for 10 days.

As Joseph took the black mare to the war, I had to look out for a horse. About two weeks since I bought a large black horse, of Milton Ritter, son of Geo. Ritter at Hickorytown for 135 Dollars. He is 16 hands high, not a white hair upon him, a slight appearance of Ringbone on the left hind leg, very long tail, holds it a little crooked to the left. The appearance on his leg was there at birth.

May 4: Monday.

Good news from Hooker's Army today. They are well over the Rapidan and Rappahannock and have come down to Chancellorsville within about 10 miles of Fredericksburg. Col. Stoneman<sup>cvi</sup> with the cavalry has gone below Fredericksburg and destroyed the Rail Road to Richmond, it is believed. Hooker has congratulated his Army on their success, &c., &c. If the Rebs. do not retreat, we will have a dreadful battle in the region of Fredericksburg within a day or two. Such is the news by the morning papers. No message has come from Washington today.

I practiced much today. We are anxious about the Army and yet the people generally are enjoying themselves about as if there was no war in our country. Even as I write, the children, Caroline, Tacie, Follen and Sam and Helen are in another room playing Old Maid with great glee.

May 15: Friday.

It was announced yesterday that the celebrated Stonewall Jackson of the Rebel Army is dead. A wound in the arm at the Battle of Chancellorsville made amputation necessary and from the effects he died. The Rebels grieve greatly. They consider it a grievous loss.

Ex Senator Vallandigham<sup>cvi</sup> of Ohio has been arrested, court-martialed and sentenced to the Island of Tortuga by General Ambrose Burnside of the Military Department of Ohio. The President commuted the sentence to removal beyond the lines of the Army into the Rebel lines. This was done by Burnside under his military order No. 38.

Dr. Ellwood Maulsby Corson, my brother George's son, who is asst. surgeon with the 69<sup>th</sup> Regt. Pa. Vol., and which Regt. was in the Sedgwick Division at the Battle of Fredericksburg and was in the rear in the retreat across the river, had a most perilous time as the Rebels were firing upon them from three columns all the while they were crossing the pontoon bridge.

May 17: Sunday.

Last evening Dr. Maulsby came up in the carriage with me from Spring Mill. I had gone for Mother and Susan who had been in Philad., and as Dr. Maulsby came up at the same time, I brought him along. After dark he and I rode to Norristown to see brother William. Got home at dawn. Doctor M. spent a couple of hours with us this afternoon, then left for the city. He will go to N. York on Tuesday, where I suppose he will be on duty.

We had a letter from Joseph yesterday. He is still in good spirits.

May 29: Friday.

We had a letter from Doctor Styer a few days since, saying that he was officially dismissed on the 12<sup>th</sup> but the officers of the Regt. had applied to the Governor to have him re-instated, and he promised him another Regt. He is waiting for it.

Had letters from Edward and Joseph a few days ago. Joseph says there is some talk of them going to Alabama.

This evening Will Cresson and W. Henry Bacon came her to buy the pony, Poloma. They took her home to try her. Our children are very sad about it. The girls had been in Gwynedd and borrowed another saddle of Aunt Susan, and as they came home, they met them taking Poloma away. It was hard for them, but I think we can do better than to keep her, even if I have to buy another.

May 30: Saturday.

8 2 A.M. This is one of the most lovely mornings I have ever seen, every plant is clothed in green. The birds are happy and are singing in every tree and bush. We are all well, and how happy and thankful we should be. As has been well said that it is only noble to be good. So we should try to be so. There are a great many petty trials which give us great annoyance. We might enjoy life much more than we do, if we would have great care to be courteous, kind and just. I will try to improve in those things. If I should occasionally fall short, I will try to make amends by renewed efforts and more care. Let this be a time to date from.

**Editor's note:** On the following page in diary book No. 4, Dr. Corson pasted a poem, THE OLD HOMESTEAD, a clipping from the Literary Page of a newspaper.

June 5: Friday.

Sitting down to write at my desk I found this red paper before me. It is the card of a Chinese Nobleman, given to my son Edward while at Canton. He had come, observed the ship, and having been politely entertained by the officers, on leaving he presented to a few of them his card. The Chinese writing on it is of course his name and title. As it is so little cared for now, as to be left lying about loose, I have concluded to past it in here. We have had it nearly three years. H. Corson.

June 17: Wednesday.

Second Rebel Raid into Pa. Since last writing, we have heard of the succession of brilliant victories achieved by General Grant in the rear of Vicksburg. He defeated Pemberton in seven battles, and is now in front of the defenses in the rear of Vicksburg. Our forces have also taken A Haines Bluff, a very strongly fortified place; also Yazoo City where they burned all the gun boats, Navy Yard, &c. We have had the city of Vicksburg besieged for two weeks, and have been throwing shells into the city ever since.

Last Monday morning we were startled by a rumor that the Rebels had defeated our forces under Milroy at Winchester, Va., and were then advancing into Maryland and into Pa. On Tuesday a proclamation from the Governor announced that they were in Chambersburg and advancing rapidly upon Carlisle 15,000 strong. This was followed the same day by a proclamation from the President calling for 50,000 men for 6 months from Pa., and fifty thousand from Ohio, N. York, and Western Virginia. Follen and Sam think



of going. I went to Norristown to see what they were doing there. I found Capt'n. Cooke trying to get men. He said he would start at 4 P.M. I came home and Follen went after dinner to see him and agreed to go with him tomorrow morning, or follow him if he goes today. After Follen came home about 4 P.M., I rode to Plymouth, Barren Hill, &c., and put up hand-bills calling on the people to come at once and go to Harrisburg to protect the Capitol. I had arranged for their transportation to Harrisburg free of charge. The Country was greatly excited, but the Democrats as a general thing, made no show of going. In the evening I went to Conshohocken with Follen. He wanted to see Jaywood Lukens, and I went to address a meeting in order to get volunteers, as the Governor in the forenoon had issued another call for the people to come for the emergency, without regard to time and that as soon as they were not needed they should be returned to their home. Judge Krause was speaking when I arrived. I afterwards addressed them, but still only half a dozen put their names down. They were afraid they would have to remain for six months. When we got home we found that Samuel M. Corson, my nephew, had stopped on his way home from the city to say that he thought he would go with a city company and would like Follen to go with him. Next morning after a sleepless night, I rose early and went over to see Samuel. It was arranged that they should go down together ready to go (taking only one blanket) and if they got suited in the company, not to return, for the calls for help at Harrisburg were very urgent. They had scarcely started before Will Cresson came here to get them to go with the Germantown Company, as he and Clarence and Jon't. Cresson were going in it, and it was made up of educated and highly respectable young men. He took the cars at 8 o'clock to join them (the boys) in the city.

A letter came from Samuel in the evening to his mother that they were off with the company from Germantown.

There was a terrible storm about the time they were to take the cars, for Harrisburg at 6 P.M., and we all felt very sad. There was a sense of deep loneliness. Ed., Jos. and Follen all gone from us; and Ellwood and Sam both gone from Aunt Martha. And then to think they had gone to fight, perhaps be killed in battle. It was very sad to think of, and what seemed disheartening was the fact that not a single person went from the place but them.

June 18: Thursday.

We were all feeling poorly. The reports that the Rebels had burned Greencastle and Chambersburg and were within six miles of Harrisburg, alarmed the people dreadfully. The people were now beginning to pour up to Harrisburg from every part of the State, also from N. York and New Jersey and Massachusetts. The old Regiments just returned from the war, but not yet mustered out, were ordered back to aid Pa. Towards night of this day we heard that some of the Philad. companies were returning as General Couch would not receive them if they would not be sworn in for 6 months; so we felt that perhaps Sam and Follen would yet return. In the evening Mother and myself went out to see Aunt Martha. She was hearing patriotically, if it were proper for any one to go, why it might be equally so for Samuel.

On Friday evening after we went to bed there was knocking at the door, and on asking who was there we found it was Follen. They had returned, the whole company, and he and Sam had walked up from Chestnut Hill. There was joy among the children

and I may say we were all greatly pleased that they had safely returned. I forgot to say that when Follen went to the city, Mother went along and procured some small articles for him, and Sam, and returned in the 1 2 P.[M.] Car. She had pain in her head and so went to bed, rose 5 P.[M.] and became very sick at Stomach, vomited very severely and had an awful pain in the head during all the evening, so that she could not be gotten up stairs till about 10 o'clock. This and the absence of the boys made us feel very badly. But now they are back again and Mother is better and things seem more cheerful.

June 21: Sunday.

Yesterday the Democrats, or Copperheads as we now call them, so mean and hostile are they in relation to the war, had a county meeting to ratify the nomination of Judge Woodward for Governor. There was a large meeting, which was addressed by our Congressman, Stile, Col. Owen Jones, Ben Boyer, lawyers Banks and Hunsicker. They were savage on the Administration and the abolitionists. I listened to them for a while. They said there was not a Rebel in Pa.

We got letters yesterday from Edward and from Joseph. Edward wrote us from Pernambuco. They were in full pursuit of the Pirate Florida and three others, who had left there only seven hours before the arrival of the Mohican. They staid only part of the day, just long enough to take on coal, but long enough for Edward to call on the Consul, his first cousin, my sister Mary=s son, Thomas Adamson. Thos. was delighted to see him. Edward says he is much worn down by his over-work. These pirate vessels have been burning our ships and that throws the crews on Thomas hands. Edward had a hope that they would take the Florida within 24 hours.

Joseph writes every week. He is still at Fairfax. Hookers whole army is now there. He has met Ellwood. They are now near together. He seems to be doing well.

It is only a week since the Copperhead Democrats had their meeting at Norristown and reviled the President and Government for calling out the people to resist the Rebel invasion, which they said was all gotten up for political effects, and now to say we have the whole country excited to the utmost for fear they will be in Harrisburg in a day or two. The Rebels are now opposite Columbia and they (our people) are preparing to burn the fine bridge over the Susquehanna, in order to keep them from crossing.

The Bell has been ringing in Norristown this afternoon, to call the people's attention to the subject. The Governor is out with a proclamation calling for [a] 60,000 Volunteer Militia for 3 months.

Will Cresson is here today. He says his brother Clarence has gone to Harrisburg to join the Grey Reserves.

June 29: Monday.

Caroline and myself went early to Norristown, I to see a patient with William and she to the dentist. As we wrote into the town, we saw that something unusual had happened. The street was lined with men, groups everywhere. It appeared that they had had a meeting the day before and agreed to close all the mills, workshops, stores, &c., so that all might go to war. The iron employers from the region about were also there. So this morning hundreds of men are out of employment in Norristown, Conshohocken, Balligomingo, &c., &c. Companies are drilling, men rushing to and fro, preparing to go

to Harrisburg. Many thousands of Dollars were subscribed yesterday for the families of the poor men who are willing to go.

When we got home, at 11 A.M., Follen had gone to Conshohocken to see Jaywood Lukens who had come to see Follen about going to war, but Follen was not at home at the time. Follen had scarcely got back and had dinner, when Jonathan Cresson came up in great haste from the cars at Spring Mill, to say that Saml. Corson was anxious for Follen and Jaywood to come to Philad. and join the Key-Stone Battery. So they all hurried off, Jon't. and Follen to Conshohocken, and they got Jaywood and started in the 12 P.M. cars for Philad.

In the evening Sam and Fol returned. Sam had gotten out of the notion of the Battery, and so they put their names down for an infantry company.

June 30: Tuesday.

The boys bid us good bye and went to join their company. In the evening after running about all day they returned again. They found that this company which they have joined was only for the defense of Philadelphia. So they abandoned it, and applied for a place in the Grey Reserves, now at Harrisburg. They are to be equipped tomorrow, so they came home. Sam has pretty much determined not to go.

Charley Lukens and Jaywood spent the evening here. Jay is anxious to go, and Follen will go with him. Sam probably will not.

July 1: Wednesday.

Sam came over while we were at breakfast, and he and Follen were soon ready. I took them and mother to Conshohocken for the 7 A.M. train. At starting, Saml. did not know whether he would go further than Philad. or not. I rather advised him not to go. It leaves his mother so lonely. If his father were living it would not seem so bad. But he was, I suppose, afraid he would be laughed at. Mother returned this evening. She says they left the city in the 2 P.M. train for Harrisburg, Follen, Sam, Jay, Jon't. Cresson, Wm. Henry Cresson, and some of Saml=s friends.

By this time, 10 P.M., they are in camp. The rebels are falling back a little, so as to get their troops massed to meet General Meade (the successor to Genl. Hooker in the Army of the of the Potomac) who is coming up through Maryland. A dreadful battle is coming, and our boys will be in the dread conflict before another week passes over.

July 2: Thursday.

[The] boys got off yesterday. Today we hear that there was a dreadful fight yesterday between the forces of Lee and Meade.

I went to the city today with a patient to Professor Smith. I went first to the Anti-slavery Society Rooms, then to the Headquarters of the Committee to organize colored troops. At the latter place I found Robert R. Corson officiating. He handed me a telegraphic dispatch which he rec'd. at 11 o'clock last night, informing him that assistant surgeon Ellwood M. Corson was ill at Fredericks in Maryland, and directing him to inform the family. I felt very badly. Ell perhaps dying at Frederick, and Saml. just entered the Service. I waited until 4 2 P.[M]. For a second dispatch from Doctor Simpson, Medical Director of Baltimore, and formerly a student to Doctor Richard Corson, Roberts father. Robt. had telegraphed him to send Ellwood home, if he could be

moved, by Doctor Homer Trego, whom Robt. had induced to go after him. Well, the telegraph came, and it said that he had not seen him, but feared he was too ill to be moved, or he would have been sent down. We will hear from Trego tomorrow.

July 3: Friday.

Went to town early in the morning to tell the Provost that Follen had gone to war and could not be at the commencement today. Aunt Martha, also went down to see about Ell, and Tacie and Carrie went to commencement. I saw the Provost, did some business and came out at 11 o'clock. I had slept but little the night before, thinking of Ell and Fol and Sam, &c., so I went to bed as soon as I got dinner; but about 2 o'clock mother came up to tell me that Sam and Fol had gotten home. Sam had got sick and dispirited after his first night at Harrisburg, and had gotten Follen to come home with him, before they were mustered in. I was truly glad to know that Sam was at home, on his own and his mother's account, but I confess, I was mortified that he and Follen had come home, and all the other boys staid.

In the evening Lewis Lukens and his son Charles came up to hear of Jaywood. I felt mortified, but bore it as well as I could. The Army is fighting today it is thought.

July 4: Saturday.

Evening. A dispatch came for Aunt Martha today, asking that she come to Baltimore immediately to see Ellwood, who will be brot there tonight. They have gone to Philad. to start from there at midnight.

Troops have been going from every part of the State at a wonderful rate this week. The news was considered good from the Army of the Potomac this morning, but it is beyond speaking of this evening. Lee has been defeated, and an immense number of prisoners has been taken. Vicksburg too has fallen, the Bulletin says. If this news should be confirmed tomorrow, there will be great rejoicing. Cannons have been heard all the evening in the direction of Philad.

We have felt so uncomfortable about Follen coming home, that after consultation among mother, Carrie and myself this evening, mother broke it to him, and we had quite a free talk on the subject of his going back. He thinks he is not well enough, and we all concur in that belief, but still we think he might stand it, and we feel badly to think the other boys are left there.

July 5: Sunday.

Follen and all the rest of us went to bed with heavy hearts last night, as we almost concluded that he must go again. But before morning, we had all come to the same conclusion (mother, Carrie and myself) that he ought not to go, that he is too weak and unwell to stand it.

**Editor's note:** At this point in the diary are two newspaper clippings, one about the University of Pennsylvania commencement, the other as follows:

From Bahia.

NEW YORK, July 5-Bahia dates of June 2d state that the gunboat Mohican is in that port, and that the rebel pirates Alabama and

Florida are also there, watching the movements of the Mohican.

Evening. We hear today that a dreadful battle was fought on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> at Gettysburg, and nearly 50,000 men were lost in the two armies, that Lee, the Rebel General, was terribly beaten. We took 15,000 prisoners, 118 pieces of artillery, and all his pontoon train. There is great rejoicing with those who have heard it. At the Orthodox Friends Meeting, when we came out, I told Franklin Whitall about the news. He was overjoyed. He had been under great excitement the past week, under great fear I might say. In the afternoon I rode up to Norristown to see if the report was really correct. Brother William says it is true, and I called on Mr. Whitall as I returned, to tell him.

July 6: Monday.

The good news confirmed. We have looked anxiously for Sam and his mother today, but now 10 P.M. they have not arrived. John Corson, my nephew came from the Army of the Potomac on Friday last. He says that as he came through Frederick, Maryland, he saw Ellwood carried on a litter along the street, that he did not know Ellwood.

July 8: Wednesday.

Sam'l. returned today, got here by 6 A.M. from Baltimore, which he left in the night. Wishes me to see Ell. I will go in the 11 2 A.M. train.

July 11: Saturday.

Reached home by the 3 P.M. cars. Came from Baltimore since 10 A.M. William went with me to Baltimore, and after we had seen Ellwood for an hour or two at the Maltley House in Pratt Street, at the very spot where the Massachusetts Troops were attached, while on their way to Washington, the first week of the war. We went to the Provost Marshal and got passes to go to Gettysburg.

**Editor's note:** At this point in the diary, Dr. Corson pasted the actual pass issued to him by Provost Marshal Wm. S. Fish, Lt. Col., Headquarters, Middle Department, 8<sup>th</sup> Army Corps. The pass stated that permission is hereby given to Surgn. H.H. Corson to proceed to AGettysburgh, Pa. to assist the wounded. @ On the bottom of the pass, Corson wrote, On opposite side is the Oath of Allegiance which we had to take. H. Corson.

After getting our passes we took the cars for the Battle Field at 6 P.M. At 9 P.M. we reached Hanover Junction. Here about 100 of us were put out. There was no sleeping room, no supper to be had, they said. As I had nothing to eat since leaving Philad., I sought the landlady and ask her for supper for two. She said she would get that, but no more. After waiting an hour, Willi and myself had a most excellent supper in a back room unknown to the other party. At 11 P.M. we lay down on some newly gathered hay in the barn, with along twenty others. Dr. Cuyler, Medical Inspector, Dr. Thos. Betton and several other physicians, many of the Christian Commissions from N. York and Philad. and other persons bound to the Field were of the members. At day-break we were all up, and after a hasty cup of coffee and some bread and ham, we looked anxiously for the cars. But long before this time, I had become anxious to return to stay with Ellwood,

whom a felt shame for forsaking. The sun came up in a blaze, and the day promised to be a hot one. At 8 o'clock the cars arrived from York, on the way to Baltimore. As I saw it come, I said to myself I will not be able to get a seat. It was covered everywhere, even the engine house and tender. It stopped and everybody rushed out. There was scarcely a passenger left in the whole train. They had gotten through many difficulties thus far on their way to Gettysburg. There were now 3 or 400 there ready to take the cars. I jumped into the down train and before eleven o'clock was again with Ellwood. The passengers at the junction did not get away from there, I have since heard, until 4 P.M.

I remained with Ellwood until today at 10 A.M. He is getting along well and likely will be home in a week from this .July 15, Wednesday.

Ellwood arrived today, came from Baltimore to Philad. yesterday, reaching Chas. Bacon's at 11 P.M. He is much improved, but still unable to sit up, and with pain in the side.

July 16: Thursday.

Blister to Ellwood's side.

July 20: Monday.

Side entirely relieved, improved, sitting up. I got a letter today from Joseph. As it is a very short one, I will insert it:

July 16<sup>th</sup>, 1863

Dear Father. I am nearly out of paper. Received Carrie's letters today. Am very sorry to hear of Ell's sickness. The Rebs rather gave us the slip today, but we took many prisoners and some artillery. They are frightfully demoralized. We have been out 3 weeks with no tents but our gum blankets, not much to eat. Never was healthier in my life, or in better spirits. This army is in splendid condition and exultant. Did you see the N. York Herald's comments on our Division at Gettysburg. He says it saved the day. Don't be at all anxious about me. The messenger is about starting and I must close.

Love to all. Very affectionately, thy son, Joseph.

P.S. The Mare is in excellent condition; I hope Fol will not be sick. Jos.

July 26: Sunday.

Have had letter from the boys within a few days. Edward writes from Pernambuco. When he got to that place, he called on his cousin Tom Adamson, who is American Consul there. On his second visit, after an absence of a couple of weeks, he found Thos. very sick. It is a very sickly climate. Edward had a few days and then left for Bahia. Joseph wrote from camp near Ashly's Gap, Va. He had rec'd. some letters from us since they left the Gettysburg battle field. They have not for a month delayed their pursuit of Lee. For three weeks they had no tents.

August 2: Sunday.

Rec'd. a letter last week from Jos., dated Manassas July 26<sup>th</sup>. In this he speaks of having had their hardest times, for 5 weeks have only had one days rest from marching and fighting, for 4 days previous to reaching Manassas, they were without food, save

what could be picked in a region already many times plundered. The Third Corps had a dreadful battle with the Rebels here. The rebels estimate their own loss as 2,800 killed and wounded.

August 9: Sunday.

During the last week we have had letters. Edward's is dated Bahia, Brazil, July -- He has had a very pleasant time since last writing. It is a pleasant city. Many ladies have been educated in England, and as they talk English well, it makes it agreeable. They have invited our officers to parties, and pleasure parties quite often.

Joseph wrote from camp near Warrenton, Va. The Army has come to a halt after many weeks of excessive toil. They are waiting now to have their Corps filled up with the drafted men, who are now about sent into the field. So Joseph will have a little rest I hope.

Nearly two weeks ago Ellwood had so far recovered as to ride to Norristown. That night he was awakened by a severe pain in his right testicle. He was chilly, sick at stomach, febrile and since that time has been completely broken down. I now have his testicle bound by adhesive strips as is done in orchitis, which this is. He is on the use of stimulants, quinine, food, &c. He has suffered very much. Professor H. H. Smith visited him with me yesterday. We had met at Mr. Heydrick in the afternoon to see his wife, aged 82, on whom we had operated for Fungus Hematodes<sup>cviii</sup> of the breast 10 days ago.

Sam and Ida have both been very sick with fever for about 2 weeks, but are now convalescent.

Follen has been at Norristown for nearly three weeks clerking for the Enrolling Board. He gets \$2.50 per day.

I have been very busy practicing since my return from Baltimore. Last Wednesday [a] week, I took Nancy (wife) to James Cresson, back of Germantown, and then took Mrs. Cresson with us to the camp of the first Black Regiment ever formed in Pa. As there was to be a Flag Raising, and notice had been given, there was an immense concourse of people present. I suppose at least 3 or 4,000, besides the Regt., which is full. They went through the drill finely. We had speeches from Judge Kelly, and George Earle, and a fine time generally.

Last Thursday evening a week, I spoke by announcement before the Norristown League. The audience was quite large, both sexes being well represented. At the close of the meeting, an old lady, Mrs. Ellfretto came forward and was introduced to me by Mrs. Cooke. She thanked me kindly for my sentiments and was happy she said to make my acquaintance. Many other ladies also came forward and expressed their gratification at hearing so eloquent an address. The new Methodist Minister also came forward and introduced himself to me. Mr. Mulvany had previously made quite a complimentary speech to the audience respecting me, and a vote of thanks, the whole house rising to vote, was accorded to me.

Mother and the girls have all been busy working for the soldiers, and keeping things going generally, for I have been busy and Follen has been away every day. William Cresson and his brother Clarence were drafted in the Germantown District. I gave Will a certificate in reference to the spasm of the bowels, which has afflicted him occasionally for a long time.

About three weeks since the draft was begun in New York and progressing for a day or two, an Irish mob seized the boxes, demolished them, drove off the official and cut up papers generally. The police force was too weak to resist them, and so they soon went into extreme measures, burning houses of Republicans of all who favored the Draft, or were friends to the Administration. In a day or two more, it raged into fearful fury. Houses were plundered and burned. The colored asylum for children was burned, and a general war made upon the colored people wherever they could be found. Hundreds were beaten and scores of them cruelly murdered. Many whites were also killed and their bodies mutilated by the fiends. But at last the military was brought to bear upon them and the mob was shot down in the street and on the roofs of houses as so many days, and order was finally restored.

Since that time the Draft took place in Philad., but not an act of violence was heard of. Ample force had been placed in all Irish Districts.

This day [a] week a company of cavalry (encamped the previous night in Yerkes' woods) passed up through Norristown on its way to the Coal Region, to be ready for the Draft there. Carrie and some of the children heard the thump of the column in the night as it came up, and heard the men talking in the woods after they stopped, but could not till morning make out what it was.

I forgot to say that a company, the Dana Troops of Philad. had gone two days before, with 6 pieces of artillery. They also passed up in the night. So the miners will not likely get up a riot when the draft takes place up there.

Tomorrow, August 10<sup>th</sup>, the Drafting will begin in this Congressional District, embracing Lehigh and our County. The New York riot has been useful to the Country in one way. It has enabled government to send a strong military force into every district where drafting is likely to take place, and it is looked upon as a necessary precaution to protect the people, and not as a menace. This has been a real advantage, as it prevents the threats and loud talk, even when violence might not have been intended. But there is no doubt, that, if Lee had defeated Meade and had borne on towards Philad., the Irish population of New York would have carried on their reign of terror. In Philad. also they would have arisen under the pretense of resistance to the Draft, and would have made savage war on the Negroes, Quakers, and Republicans, and would have welcomed Lee and his Army. The mob cheered and hurraed for Jeff. Davis in New York. And at our Democrat meeting in Norristown on Sat., June 20<sup>th</sup>, they did the same thing. They would all I believe have joined hands with the Rebel hordes. It is fearful to contemplate the condition into which our Country would have been plunged by the defeat of Meade. We would have been compelled to flee before an Irish mob. Thank God, and our brave soldiers, we succeeded and our Country will be saved from the Irish mob rule, from slavery and Rebel Rule. It is now nearly six o'clock Sunday afternoon and Follen has not yet gotten home from Norristown, where he has been forced to clerk today in order to be ready for the Draft tomorrow.

August 10: Monday.

The drafting occurred in Norristown today for several boroughs and townships. Several of our friends were drawn. Most of them will procure substitutes, but some poor fellows will not be able. All passed off very quietly. I was much engaged and did not get



up to see it. Thirty-seven were drawn in Plymouth of whom 26 were Democrats. That shows who went to the war voluntarily. The Republicans had nearly all gone.

August 16: Sunday.

I rec'd. a letter from Surgeon General King of this State asking me to consent to have my name place on a list ready to be called by telegraph to go to the Army of the Potomac in case of a battle. Ex Surgeon General Smith with whom I had a consultation a week before, asked permission to send on my name and I declined it. Now I do not know what to do. I will take a few days thought on it.

August 19: Wednesday.

I have written to Surgeon Genl. King that I will hold myself in readiness. See letter pasted on the next page.<sup>cix</sup>

Everywhere we are pressing the enemy, but nothing is of so much interest now as the bombardment of the Charleston Forts.

August 23: Sunday.

Dreadfully hot. The Draft took place the week before last. It has all passed off well. Last week they were busy putting in substitutes. Follen is still clerking for the Marshal. Very busy he is. A great many were exempted this week past. Very many are coming to me to get exempt, or rather to get a few lines to your brother.

The attack on Sumter by the Batteries, Iron clads and Monitors has been cont'd. for several days and great breeches are made in it. We have heard from Jos. several times lately.

August 28: Friday.

For two or three days we have had acc[oun]ts of almost utter destruction of Fort Sumter, but the Rebel flag still waves over it. This evening the Bulletin announces that our flag has been hoisted, and the city of Charleston is being bombarded, or rather Greek fire<sup>cx</sup> is being thrown into it from Morris Island. This caused Beauregard to send [a] Flag of Truce and ask for 24 hours cessation. It was not granted as full warning had been given, and he despised it.

September 13: Sunday.

Forts Gregg and Wagner have been taken by our troops. The siege and assaults upon them have been long and terrific. Nothing like the terrible bombardment of Fort Wagner has ever been spoken of in any History.

We get letters from Joseph about two a week now. He is in fine spirits. Has the whole charge of the Regt., and says he has not lost one man for whom he was responsible.

September 15: Tuesday.

A letter from Edward today from Rio Janeiro [sic] says they expect to start home about Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>. He gives us an acct. of their visit to the Emperor of Brazil. They were presented by the American Minister, General Webb. The affair was a brilliant one; all the Foreign Ambassadors being present, and in full dress.

Yesterday, Monday, 14<sup>th</sup>, Susan left home to go to school, to Miss Howe, No. 1525 Chestnut St. Carrie went down with her. Mother and myself have had a great time looking for a school for her, and finally fixed on this one. Miss Pattie Brinton, daughter of Mr. Caleb Brinton of Chester Co., is to be with her. I forgot to say that Carrie has just returned (on Saturday last) from a two weeks visit to Mr. Brinton's family. She had a delightful time.

Chattanooga, a very important rebel place, was given up by them without a battle. This is a great success for us. It cuts the great Rail Road from Mobile to the North.

Gen=l. Burnside, by a rapid march, has succeeded in reaching Knoxville and has been heartily welcomed by the loyal people of E. Tennessee. They were nearly all loyal, and on that acct. have been dreadfully scourged by the Rebels. Everywhere we are having successes in the field. But at home we have a terrible political fight going on. The Democratic Party is moving every thing to elect a Governor opposed to the National Administration. We are alive to the danger that threatens us, and are up and doing.

Secret political associations are being formed in every part of all the states. We have just formed one in brother George's Hall, of which I am at present Temporary President. The pledges to loyalty are exceedingly solemn and binding. They are joining rapidly.

September 18: Friday.

I took mother and little Mary, now in her eleventh year, to Germantown to stay a week with aunt Priscilla Wistar.

I recollect a paragraph which I used to read in the "Old English Reader: @ AAat thirty man suspects himself a fool, knows it at forty and reforms his plan. At fifty chides his infamous delay, pushes his prudent purpose to reform, resolves and re-resolves, then dies the same." Can it be that this is a true picture of the weakness of man, and of the strength of habit. I am now within a few days of fifty-nine, and I will try myself with whatever reform I desire, and also to break whatever of pernicious habits I may have.

October 4: Sunday.

Have done well I think in my efforts since last writing. We have had letters and photographs from both the boys since I wrote. There has been an awful battle between the Rebels and Rosecrans near to Chattanooga, at Chamauga. The battle at Chamauga was one of the most sanguinary of the war. Our loss is estimated at 13,000, and the rebels at 20,000. The Rebs. lost of general officers most fearfully. Our Army of the Potomac is now being sent of, many of them, to reinforce Rosecrans.

A letter from Joseph yesterday says they are still near Culpeper, and the Rebels in front of them on the other side of the Rapidan River

The political contest for Governor in this state is now waxing terribly hot. Large meetings in every county addressed by speakers of eminence from abroad, as well as by our own.

We had the state fair at Norristown last week. The concourse of people is estimated at 50,000.

Last Monday, Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>, brother Alan, his son Elias Hicks Corson and myself went to Newtown, Bucks Co., to attend the funeral of Wm. Buckman and wife (aunt Jane Bennetts daughter), both murdered it is said in their own home a few nights since. They

lived the past three years in Ladsbury Township, Chester Co. On the night of the murder, the youngest son aged 13, heard a noise about 11 o'clock and came down into his mother's room, where he found her dead on the floor, much bruised and with her throat cut. He went and got the gun and then went downstairs, where he found the front door open. He was soon joined by the hired man (colored) who had also been awakened by the noise. The colored man would not go for the neighbors, and the little fellow said he would not leave his mother, so they waited about an hour when a man came along, from an apple cutting. They got him to go awake the neighbors, and after a search of a couple of hours, they found Buckman tied to the fence with his throat cut and quite dead. After he was found a careful investigation of his case has brot a conviction that Buckman was the murderer. Brother Alan, his son E. H. Corson and myself went to the funeral at Newtown, Bucks Co.

October 11: Sunday.

Rec'd. a letter from Joseph yesterday in which he says their great danger is that Lee will out-flank our army, which is weakened by the withdrawal of 15,000 men who were sent to Rosecrans, who is in Chattanooga, endeavoring to sustain himself until reinforcements can arrive. The rebel force is very heavy, and Rosecrans therefore in great danger. Meade, too, is also in great danger, many thousands of soldiers having come away to be in the state elections in Ohio and Pa. Everything here yields now to the contest for Governor. Next Tuesday will decide it.

October 15: Thursday.

With the election day before yesterday, and the reports of battles between Meade and Lee, in Virginia, we have been greatly excited. It is now ascertained that Curtin is elected in Pa., and Brough, the Republican candidate is elected in Ohio by at least 50,000 over the traitor Vallandigham. So in these results we have great rejoicing. This evening, too, we have a report from the Army of the Potomac that our army has been compelled to fall back towards Washington, in order to prevent Lee from outflanking him [Meade]. In doing this, several severe fights have occurred between our rear guard and the Rebel advance. In the last of these we took 600 prisoners, 6 pieces of artillery, two colors, &c., and our forces are now so near Washington as to be secure from attack. We see that the Pa. Reserve Corps to which Joseph belongs, were in the fight. We hope he is safe.

October 16: Friday.

Morning. Mrs. Corson, Carrie, Frannie and myself [were] at a party last night (tea drinking) at Mr. Franklin Whitalls, a very pleasant company, Captn. Cook, Mrs. Genl. Whipple, Mrs. Butler, Mr. and Mrs. -----, Isaac Roberts and wife, and all the Whitalls children.

November 1: Sunday.

There has been a change in the Army movements since last writing. The Army had no sooner weakened the Centerville heights, then they began to press on the rear of Lee's Army, which had suddenly wheeled and fled. My nephew Ellwood had gone down to Washington to see if his resignation had been accepted, and on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> Oct. went out to the front of the Army to their 69<sup>th</sup> Regt., or what is left of it, for nearly every

officer was killed at Gettysburg; and of the 1000 men who went out, only about 100 remain. While riding out beyond Centerville he met the reserves coming in and saw Joseph, Dr. Comfort, Dr. Read, &c., but as they had to continue the march, he went on promising to return and stay a day or two with them in their camp at Centerville, where they supposed they would probably remain for the winter. Alas! When he returned on Monday morning, he found Joseph and Dr. Comfort standing by their horses, just ready to mount and follow their regiments in the pursuit after Lee.

I here insert an Obituary of my nieces sons. My Niece Hannah Schultz, daughter of my sister Sarah Read, had but two boys. The Obituary speaks all I have to say of them. Their mother spent a month with William at Gettysburg. She had been on a short visit to him before, but then the surgeon and himself thought he would soon be well, and as the accommodations for her were very poor, she came home. Hearing soon after that he was worse, she went back and remained until he died, in the tent with him.

**Editor's note:** The obituary, taken from an unidentified newspaper, tells a gripping story of a mother and her two fallen sons. It is presented here in its entirety:

#### OBITUARY

##### THE DEATHS OF WILLIAM C. & HENRY SHULTZ:

There are few among us who will not long remember the intense excitement which existed in our country in the latter end of April, 1863; how our young men, who had known only the arts of peace, flew to arms, to save the Capitol of our country from capture by a rebel foe. Thousands of young and ardent boys, yet in their minority, pleading with those having control over them to allow them to enlist in defense of the country. It was a grand spectacle. They came from hill and valley, from mountain and plain, from town and country, from palace and hovel, the rich and the poor, the learned and the unlearned, and gathering under the Stars and Stripes, in companies, regiments, and battalions, and leaving friends and home behind them, they formed a living rampart around the beleaguered city, where freedom dwelt. Among these volunteer defenders of Human Freedom, were the two young boys, the subjects of this notice. The only children of a loving mother, they besought her to let them join those who were gathering for the war. After the brief and desperate struggle between a mother's love for her children, and her devotion to her country, she gave them both, her all, to the cause of human liberty.

The elder, William Corson Schultz, in May, 1861, then just turned of 19 years, entered Col. Baker's California Regiment, and was with him at the battle of Ball's Bluff, continuing with the Regiment after the death of Col. Baker; he then passed through the Peninsula campaign from Yorktown to Fair Oaks, through the seven day's battles before Richmond, fighting all day, and retreating all night, until, exhausted and broken down by their labors, they reached the James River. From there they were speedily transferred to aid Gen. Pope on his famous retreat. Here the regiment was in Sumner's Division, which covered the retreat, and their situation was one of great danger; skirmishing and fighting from the Rappahannock to Bull Run. And here, before the terrible battle begins, let us look after the younger brother, Henry, who, after William had gone from home, and when he was a little turned 18 years, joined Co. F, 51<sup>st</sup> Regiment P.V., under Col. Hartranft. The Regiment sailed with the ABurnside Expedition to Hatteras, and in North Carolina he was in the battle of Roanoke, Newbern [New Bern], and Camden. They were then brought to Virginia and joined the army under Pope, and with it, reached

Bull Run. In that battle the brothers, in different parts of that bloody field, contended with the foe. At its close, for the first time in more than a year, they met each other, as yet unharmed, and talk of absent friends, of mother, and of home; then to part, and hurry on to save our State from the tread of invaders.

They struggled at South Mountain; they fought at Antietam; William under Sumner, and Henry under Burnside. The bridge was to be taken, and the gallant 51<sup>st</sup> was chosen for the purpose. On they go. Freedley was wounded; Bell was killed; the ground was covered with dead and dying, but the bridge was won, and the boys were ordered to lie down to save themselves from the terrible storm of shot and shell, when our young soldier was instantly killed. He was buried near the scene of that terrific struggle, which History will make immortal. His Captain said of him,- Athere was no better boy in my company; I never heard him use a profane word, and he was always at his post of duty. @ Let me sum up his roll of honor. Roanoke, Newbern, Camden, Manassas or Bull Run, Chantilly, South Mountain, and Antietam. On the right, at Antietam, Sumner had made fierce battle with the foe during that dreadful day, but William came out at night unharmed. Pennsylvania was saved; the enemy was foiled; and now our brave army follows the retreating rebels to Fredericksburg, and there he participated in the battle under Burnside- After months of watching the enemy in Virginia, the army was again called to Pennsylvania, to save us from the army under Lee. On the second of July, 1863, after marching thirty miles that day, they were formed in line of battle on reaching Gettysburg, and fought till dark, when, just as the battle was ceasing, he was wounded through the body and carried from the field. For several weeks the surgeons had hopes of his recovery, but in the latter part of August they began to fear that he would not be able to bear up against the wasting effects of his wounds. He gradually weakened, until, as the month of September wore away, it was apparent that his days were few. The surgeon in charge, with that delicacy of feeling which ever characterizes the true and good man, had the other wounded soldiers and their nurses removed from the room, in order that he might enjoy that quiet and privacy which all so much desire for those whose lives are ebbing to their close. Methinks I hear him say, as he noiselessly moves about, making those arrangements.

Away! away! Avert the anxious eye,  
In holy silence let the Hero die;  
Let no unhallowed step, nor glance, nor breath,  
Disturb the sacredness of such a death!

All had been exceedingly kind to him, nothing had been left undone that could comfort him; but the free unrestrained converse with his loved parent was most grateful to him. He had never murmured and now that he had spoken of his trial, of his efforts to do his duty, and his hopes that we would preserve the liberties of our people, in the stillness of the early morning of the 20<sup>th</sup> of September, with none but God and his mother to look on, he passed quietly away.- On the following day, in the presence of a few sympathizing friends, he was buried in the Cemetery on the Gettysburg Battle Field, and on his monument will be inscribed a roll of honor, brilliant with the names of every battle field lost or won by the Army of the Potomac, under McClellan and Pope, Burnside, Hooker and Meade.

November 17: Tuesday.

We have had several letters from Joseph, since they began to go down from Centerville in pursuit of the retreating Rebels. They are now encamped on the lower side of Rappahannock, below Culpeper in the huts lately erected by the Rebels, for winter quarters. Meade advanced on them very unexpectedly, took about 1,700 prisoners and scattered them in all directions. So we are again on the Banks of the Rapidan, on the other side of which river the Rebels are fortifying.

For two weeks past our people have been greatly excited about the sufferings of the people who are prisoners in the hands of the rebels - 150 were brot to Annapolis within two weeks, 8 of whom died before they landed and about 50 more in one week from starvation. There are 3,500 at Belle Isle, the place to which they bring them to send them to us, who are without shelter and nearly without food. In the Richmond prisons, too, there are many thousands, suffering from filth, vermin and starvation.

Thousands of Dollars, and immense stores of food and clothing have been sent on to them and arrangements at last affected by which they are furnished with what we send. Today we see by the papers that we are to have an agent there to receive and distribute the food and clothing to them. Oh! Is not that cheering. Neal Dow,<sup>cx</sup> who is a prisoner there, it is stated, has been doing that, with what has been already sent. Neal Dow is the celebrated Maine-Liquor-law man. Yesterday and today, Bertha and Frannie, and their cousin Ida Corson, have been out from house to house soliciting money and goods for the prisoners, and they have succeeded in getting many things - feathers, apples, money, preserves, dried beef, &c., &c. Mrs. Corson (wife) has been out to the Society (army aid) this afternoon, preparing to packing their boxes next Thursday. There was quite a good attendance of ladies. For many months the meetings have been very small, often only herself, AAunt Martha@ and another or two. Caroline and Tacie are sewing at home for them.

Edward in one of his last letters, directed his mother to pay the Society \$10.00 for him. That makes thirty Dollars that he has sent.

William H. Johnson has been on a visit to me since last Thursday noon. He is quite an agreeable and very intelligent gentleman and often accompanies me in my practice.

My iron ore quarry is now yielding me about \$80.00 per month, as Ground Rent, the Diggers pay me 62 2 cts. per ton in the ground. A new company has set in (two men) and if they should pay me the same amount, I shall be doing well enough.

Diphtheria has been prevailing in my practice for the past two weeks. I have followed my old treatment of ice to the throat externally and internally and have not lost a single patient.

We have another letter from Edward since last writing. It was mailed at Pernambuco Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>. In good spirits.

November 18: Wednesday.

W. H. Johnson left us today. This evening the girls and their mother are very busy getting things ready to send off tomorrow for the relief of our starving soldiers in Rebel prisons. Mrs. Cresson came up today bringing a great load of things. Mrs. Wills also sent the children over with biscuits, a beef tongue, &c., this evening. Many others have sent in their contributions today. The boxes are to be packed and sent away

tomorrow. The ladies will meet at the Methodist Meeting house at 2 o'clock and pack up the things.

In view of what the soldiers suffer we should be ready to make almost any sacrifice of time or money. I hope I will be able to do it from this time, Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>, 1863.

No news for several days from the war. Tomorrow is to be the great day for dedicating the great battle field of Gettysburg, as a National Cemetery for deceased soldiers.

November 21: Saturday.

Rec'd. a letter from Joseph today, enclosing a letter found at Gettysburg, from a Rebel Captain to Miss Cora in Virginia. It is a rare document. It is scorn and spite intensified. Joseph is in good spirits and narrates an adventure of his.

The papers teem with accounts of the Gettysburg Battle Field Dedication. It was a grand affair,

I am greatly engaged every day. Diphtheria is prevailing in my practice now. Thus far I have been very successful, having lost no one yet.

November 26: Thursday.

We have just rec'd. a letter from Joseph in which he says that he writes from "the Field" in great haste as they are just about to make an important move, and he will probably not be able to write again for several days. This was written last Sunday, at their camp near Rapidan. We have heard nothing of the Army of the Potomac, by the papers, since. So we think they have crossed the Rapidan and have attacked Lee. A day or two will likely bring us news.

November 27: Friday.

Last night there was a Concert at the Odd-Fellows Hall in Norristown. Carrie went there with Charles Lukens, and Tacie went with Will Cresson. Susan is at home since Wednesday evening. Thursday being Thanksgiving there was no school, and there will be none this week, so she is at home.

Yesterday Thanksgiving day, we rec'd. the news of another desperate battle at Chattanooga, between Grant and Bregg, in which our forces were completely victorious, taking 60 guns, 10,000 Stand. of Arms, a number of flags, &c., &c.

December 8: Tuesday.

We have a letter from Joseph today, in which he says, that in the last campaign, driving the Rebels across the Rappahannock, the Rapidan and as far as Mine Run where they entrenched themselves, and then after remaining there two days, they suffered extremely.

The Pa. Reserves were in the advance, and when they reached the vicinity of Mine Run, they found the enemy strongly entrenched on the west side of the river, which had been dammed so as to deepen it greatly. Our men stopped on the edge of the thickets, nearly a mile distant, and then in the pinching cold they remained without tents and only a single blanket each for a day and night. They were then, when the other corps came up, drawn up to charge the works, but a change of orders came and they began to

fall back and cont'd. to do so until they reached Briston Station, where they are now comfortably encamped.

December 9: Wednesday.

I have just returned from meeting the managers of the Model Farm Association, in Philad. We have concluded to visit the farm of Dr. Smith, in Lower Merion, tomorrow. I found on my arrival at home, that Lieut. Jamison of Joseph's Regiment had come up with Mr. Cresson at 3 P.M., to see us. E. and W. Cresson and Sam, and Follen and our girls are all in the parlor now, at some game. He seems a right pleasant man, but is quite lame, and is a resident at the Invalid Hospital for Officers in Philad. He seems quite fascinated with Joseph.

I here insert a Rebel letter,<sup>cxii</sup> which I had published in the *Republican*. Joseph found it at Gettysburg after the Battle. It speaks for itself.

December 20: Sunday.

Joseph sent us a letter this week, in which he says he will be at home, he expects in the second week of January, 1864. The Officers are getting furloughs according to rank, and there is in their Regt. only the Major before him. He has applied for a furlough, but will have to stay until the Major returns.

December 22: Tuesday

Today mother (wife) and myself were in the city buying Christmas presents for the children. We purchase at Garreth, two silver butter cups for Carrie and Tacie, one silver sugar bowl for Aunt Martha, and silver napkin rings for Samuel and Follen. At Baileys, one Garnet-ring for Susan for \$6.00 and two small pins for Bertha and Frannie, each one Dol. Also at other places presents for Ann, Jane, Irene, George, &c., also something for little Mary. We thus got rid of over \$40.00 (Got one pair of skates for Bertha and Frannie).

As we came home today, we came in the same car in which were the little Awhite slaves@ of N. Orleans, brot from there by Caleb Bacon of Philad., and who is taking them up to Norristown to exhibit them this evening. They were beautiful little girls about 10 and 8 years of age, and a little boy of about 10 years, all of different families. I had a little talk with them. This evening, too, Sam, Follen, Carrie and Tacie went to Norristown to see them. The Hall was packed full of people, and interesting speeches were made by several persons. I had been invited to come up and make a speech, but was weary and therefore did not go. The children were greatly admired for their beauty and smartness.

Yesterday Follen began again to clerk for the Marshal at Norristown, at \$2.50 per day. They have had a busy time for twenty days hearing applicants for exemption. The weather is now intensely cold, and we will take ice tomorrow, I think. The children are all excitement about the coming Christmas. I have bought 160 acres more of land in Minnesota (I had 480), which I have had deeded to Caroline and Tacie and which is to be part of their Christmas presents. I think it will surprise them.

December 24: Thursday



Very cold and clear. Taking ice today. I practiced all day pretty briskly. Called at Conshohocken at 4 P.M. to get our presents for the children bought in Philad. a day or two ago. Brot Sam and Ell up. We got letters from Joseph and Doctor Comfort today. They have a hard and dangerous time now inspecting the sanitary condition of their Corps of the Army. A ride of 30 miles a day, each of them every 5<sup>th</sup> day and guerillas abounding in their path. They have an escort of 10 cavalry men, and are attended by a Major.

Mother and the girls are busy (evening) fixing a small bed for Mary's Dolls. It will be a great surprise to her tomorrow morning. Follen and Bertha and Frannie have just come from Aunt Martha's (9 P.M.) where they have been seeing the Chris-Kingle. Ann, Isaac, and Jane have attended the Kitchen for Barren Hill church, where they are having a concert, for the benefit of the Sunday School.

## 1864

January 8: Friday.

We have been looking for Joseph, now since the New Year Day. Every day we have been expecting him, for he wrote us that he would be home very near that time.

January 9: Saturday.

I went out to practice as usual this morning and although we have sent every day to the cars for Joseph and been disappointed, I concluded to try again, so, got myself there before the 11 o'clock train came. It came, and out came Joseph, Susan and Ellwood. Joseph arrived in Philad. this morning about 5 o'clock, or at C. Bacon's at five, breakfasted, went to see Susan at the boarding school, then to see Bob and Ellwood, and came up here as stated. I brought him home before his mother and the girls knew he was coming. There was a joyous time. He was so happy and so well and they were so pleased to see him again. He had been in the cars two days and nights and was very weary. They had been greatly detained by cars (other trains) being off the track. We have good sleighing.

January 15: Friday

I have practiced a great deal today, and also went to AGrandmothers@ to take dinner. Joseph and Carrie and mother had gone up in the morning and I got there before dinner. Carrol Tyson, just returned from a six months Cavalry Service, as Adjutant, also dined with us. Joseph has been poorly since he came home, but is now pretty well again. His cousin Samuel M. Corson is now (9 P.M.) in the parlor with him and the family. I write in the dining room.

Rec'd. a letter from Dr. Comfort this evening. He says, Joseph will be made surgeon of the Regt. in the spring.

Rec'd. rent for the iron ore quarries [for] December, \$105.00.

February 18: Thursday.

For a whole month I have neglected to write. There has been a succession of things, of great interest, but I was very busy and with so many things that I neglected writing.

Joseph left here Sunday, Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> by the 5 P.M. train and left Philad. by the 11 P.M. train. Beyond Alexandria they had a dreadful collision, but fortunately the baggage cars only rec'd. injury. He has written us very often since, and is very well. Several officers were killed, wounded or captured only a mile and a half from camp a few nights since.

We have rec'd. letters from Edward from Cape of Good Hope, and written a few days from St. Helena on his return to Rio Janeiro [sic]. Since that, we have heard by the papers that the ship has gone to East Indies. We hope not.

Follen still continues to go daily to the office in Norristown. \$2.50 per day. He is now their first of the clerks. They are preparing for a draft, but I do not think it will be necessary. The men are enlisting very rapidly. The bounty is so large, almost \$600.00, that they are free to enlist rather than stand the chance of a draft. The old Regts. too are nearly all re-enlisting.

Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, the 51<sup>st</sup> Regt. returned to Norristown. Great preparations had been made to receive them, arches sprung across the streets, flags, banners, devices, and thousands of men, women and children formed a scene of the most cheering disruption. After a long train of soldiers, citizens in convoys and on horseback and afoot, came the scarred veterans, only about 325 from a Regt. that went out 1,000 strong. At the Marshal house, they were rec'd. by a deputation of citizens, and when the whole line came up, the immense crowd was addressed by B. F. Chain, Esq., who welcomed home the soldiers in a spirited and patriotic address. Col. Hartranft briefly replied, and then the Regt. was marched into a splendid collation.

Our Army for a month has been sending home old regiments to see their friends and re-enlist. Those who have served two years may have 30 days furlough and get about 6 or 700 Dollars bounty. Those who do not re-enlist cannot come home but are put into other regiments to serve out their time. Officers in regts. not out two years have only been allowed to go home for 10 days and then only one at a time from a Regt.

The Rebels are so provoked that General Butler has the arranging terms for exchange of prisoners, that they refuse to do it at all, because he will arrange nothing until the Black Troops and their officers are included. So none are exchanged now.

This week nearly 100 officers have escaped from the Libby Prison by mining under the walls and clear across a street. Twenty-six have already come in to Fortress Monroe. Poor fellows, they have had a hard time, a great many were caught and taken back.

Chas. Jones, my niece Sarah Read's husband, died last Sunday morning.

Franklin Pancoast, Cousin Mary Corson's son, died on Wednesday last, Febr. 17<sup>th</sup>, at his fathers. Poor fellow! He was taken sick at Culpeper, when he was clerk to the Quarter Master, and fearing to remain, he got a pass and though very weak rode in the cars to his father about 200 miles. I attended him for two days.

Ellwood, my nephew, is giving me great aid in my practice the last few weeks.

March 1: Tuesday.

We hear of Genl. Sherman not only at Selma (Alabama), but that he has advanced many miles beyond there on his way to Montgomery, Alabama. This is a daring move. 30,000 men with 20 days cooked rations left Vicksburg and burned all the bridges behind him and moved boldly through the enemy's country into the heart of Alabama. Our

forces at Knoxville are pushing Longstreet up to Virginia, thus making Sherman safe in his march.

We have a letter from Joseph today. The Army of the Potomac still idle.

The weather has been superb for a month, with scarcely any rain, but today snow. Last night we had a township meeting, gotten up by myself for the purpose of raising money to free our township from the draft. Much enthusiasm prevailed, and considerable money was raised. The quota for our township is 48. The persons liable are about 350. The Bounty which is offered above what is given by the government and the county is \$30.00 per man. Each man is therefore called on for \$5.00 to raise this necessary sum. I was president of the meeting. Committee of 20 was appointed to visit every man in the township and get them to subscribe. A committee of 3 also to visit Norristown and secure the men, &c., &c. We meet again on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

Ellwood has left me to do my practice, while he goes to help Uncle William, who is examining recruits. I have had two consultations with Dr. Vanardsdale today.

March 18: Friday.

Evening, 9 o'clock. My nephew Dr. Ellwood Corson and his mother are in the parlor (I write in the dining room) and with Amother and the girls, @ are making out a list of the things which Ellwood will want to take with him to sea. He was examined before the Navy Board a few weeks since, for a post of asst. surgeon, and on Wednesday last had rec'd. notice that he had passed second in a class of 36 who were examined. So he did very well. Yesterday he rec'd. an order to prepare for sea, and report on board the Nantucket. He will go to Philad. tomorrow and buy his uniform and all the needful things, and on Thursday of next week expects to be off.

Our committee soon filled the quota of the township, but there has been another draft ordered for 200,000 men. Follen is still at the Provost Marshal's office.

**Editor's note:** At this point in the diary, Dr. Corson pasted a personal letter from Belle Bush to him, dated Adelphian Institute (Norristown) March 20<sup>th</sup>, 1864, as well as a copy of a poem printed in the newspaper, *Lines*, by Belle Bush, and a newspaper clipping titled, *The First Abolitionist*, telling that ABenjamin Lundy deserves the highest honor of ranking as the pioneer of direct and distinctive anti-slavery in America." This is followed by the entry, Ellwood left home on (empty line, no date given) to go to New York, from whence he will go by steamer to Charleston.

April 1: Friday.

We have heard from Joseph regularly every week. Genl. Grant is now the Commander of all the Army, but has special charge of the AArmy of the Potomac@, and has his headquarters near Culpeper. Troops are continually passing on to the Army of the Potomac, and in a short time all those who had reenlisted and gone home on furlough, will return, and the army will be ready for the spring campaign.

April 4: Monday.

Letter from Edward. Says he will be home by 15<sup>th</sup> of April; letter is from Rio Janeiro [sic]. The children are all ajoy to see him.

April 14: Thursday.

Tomorrow, the children say, we will look for Edward. But we have really been watching the papers every day for a week past, to see if there was a notice of the Mohican.

I went to Norristown after dark, to see the Ladies about arranging their plans to assist in the great Sanitary Commission Fair. Got home at 10 2 P.[M.] and found Edward at home. I had heard of his arrival from Mr. Hurst of Norristown, who had come up in the 8 P.M. cars with him. Mother and the girls had gone to bed, not expecting him so late, and not knowing that the ship had come. Susan was in the city with mother all day and though mother came home, Susan staid in to go to a gymnasium. But just as she was about to start to it, Edward, who had not anchored at the Navy Yard until 4 P.M., arrived at Uncle Charles Bacon's and so Susan came up with him. He and Susan hired a carriage at Conshohocken and got home just after the folks had gone to bed. He rung the bell, and mother went to the window supposing some one had come for me. As soon as he spoke, she knew his voice, and at once all the children who heard it cried, Oh! That is Edward; and when I got home I found them all downstairs again, and we sat up until a late hour talking. He looks very well, has never been sick a day, and not a man of the 150 died from sickness. They lost but one man, who was killed by the premature discharge of a cannon.

April 18: Monday.

This evening Edward brot out his presents, 8 pieces of Lace, each about 40 yards, Panama hat for me, beautiful flowers made of feathers of various hues; a gold ring of Guinea gold from Cape of Good Hope, a present to him from the British Consul there; Whales tooth splendidly carved and named for David L. Wood of Conshohocken, and various other things.

Saml. has had a letter from Ellwood saying they arrived safely at Charleston after a most stormy passage of five days. The weather has blown for 23 days steadily from the East and a great many vessels have been wrecked on our coast.

9 P.M. I am alone here with little Mary. The little dear has been sitting close to me for a good while, while I was writing, but as she got sleepy, I have just got her to lie down on the sofa, and she is now fast asleep.

The girls (all five of them), Will Cresson, mother and Edward have all gone out to Aunt Martha's Hall to the Gymnasium. I have been quite poorly since yesterday morning, but am nearly well again now.

I am engaged to lecture before the Teacher=s Institute of Montgomery County on [the] 29<sup>th</sup>, and I have been thinking about what I shall speak upon. Last Monday, Apr. 10<sup>th</sup>, I visited the Aobject School@ hoping that I could get some information that would be useful to me, and which would enable me to suggest improvements in teaching to our Teachers. I was delighted with the school. It is kept by Miss Dickson, No.108 S. 18<sup>th</sup> St., Philad.

I would write my lecture, but my eyes forbid it. They are injured by night reading and writing.

My ore rent last month came to about \$200. This month of February \$270. For the present month they are to pay me 90 cts. per ton, ground rent.

Rec'd. a letter from Joseph last Saturday, no furloughs granted now.

April 21: Thursday.

We have a letter from Joseph today. One of the officers a day or two since called his attention to the notice in one of the papers, of the return of the Mohican, all well. So we wrote at once to tell Edward how to get down to see him. But Edward had to leave here this morning to go with the ship to N. York to be there Aput out of commission,"- and he will therefore not be able to return again for about a week.

Tonight I hear that Burnside is embarking his Troops, who have for months been concentrating at Annapolis, and Joseph's letter says they are under marching orders.

Mother, Carrie and Tacie and Follen have just arrived from Mr. Swifts where the Ladies have had a Freed men's sewing circle. These circles are very pleasant and are held at the houses of Messieurs Whitall, Butler, Ralston, Farnum, Neubold and Mrs. Cooke. We are too far away to have it here, but mother and the girls are always invited.

April 23: Saturday.

Rec'd. a letter from Surgeon General King offering Follen a place as Hospital Stewart. I replied thanking him, but saying that Follen was engaged and could not accept.

I was in the city this morning.

May 8: Sunday.

We have been in suspense during the whole of the past week, for we could hear nothing from the AArmy of the Potomac,@ and we expected it was moving on Lee=s forces. Last evening we had news from it. They had moved across the Rapidan on Wednesday and had fighting on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and had driven the enemy on the first two days, but of Saturday's work we had no account. We hoped to hear this morning, but Sunday papers brot nothing new. Tomorrow=s Press will doubtless bring us the weal and woe of the contending forces. Joseph=s letter written last Sunday at Culpeper after 2 days march was rec'd. yesterday. He is in good spirits and desires to go through the campaign. Genl. Butler also moved a great force up the James River on Friday, to march on Petersboro [sic], and then on to Richmond. I feel pretty sure that Richmond will go down this time.

Edward came home last week and has been having a pleasant time. I bought a family carriage yesterday, for which I paid \$200, and it was second hand at that, but a good strong one. Edward made mother and the girls a present of a fine set of single harness for which he paid \$46.00.

I have just finished writing 16 letters to the members of the County Medical Society asking them to send to me their reports of their practice for the past year, so that I may compile this County report for the State Society.

Edward and his mother have gone to see my sister Mary.

On Friday evening, April 29<sup>th</sup>, I addressed the Teachers Institute at the Trappe. It was a good audience of intelligent people. Susan went with me and we had a pleasant ride, arrived at home about midnight. On our way up we called at the house of David Rittenhouse, the Astronomer, and saw the spot on which he had his observatory, from whence he observed the Transit of Venus. I think of having a photograph of the house, to sell at the Fair of the Sanitary Commission to be held in Philad. in June.

The Marshal, and Commissioner and Chief Clerk, all but the surgeon have been relieved from duty in the Norristown Provost Marshal's office.

June 24: Friday,

I have written none since May, a long time for me not to write, and above all, a time to write, when more interesting events have occurred to us than ever before. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of May began the march of the Army over the Rapidan, and then began the fight of the wilderness, and for thirty days, there was an incessant marching and fighting by that great army, which by this time reached the very outskirts of Richmond, and then Reservists in the Sixth Regt., of which Joseph was acting [surgeon], came home, their time having expired. But the war went on, without an hour=s stoppage. March and fight, night and day, on, on, day after day, and night after night, and still it goes on. Our forces now being around Petersburg, shelling it.

During all those thirty days we were exceedingly anxious about Joseph, and he, poor fellow! was lying on the ground every night, when not marching. During all this time he never but on one occasion spent two nights in the same place. Marching every night and fighting and marching every day. Edward was very anxious to go down to see him, and Joseph wrote to him that he would be mustered out on May 21<sup>st</sup> and could see Edward in Fredericksburg. Anxious as Edward was to see Joseph, he seemed reluctant to go, as he did not feel well, was languid, had daily headaches, and after his visit to New York, a troublesome cough. But at last he concluded to go, and left home to do so about the 18<sup>th</sup> of May. He started, but when he got to Philad., he went to see Colonel McCandless, who was of the Reserves and having been wounded was in Philad. Col. McCandless told him he would not be able to see Joseph, and that he would not be mustered out until the 31<sup>st</sup>. So Edward went that evening to Trenton to see Dr. Thos. Corson. On his way up he was taken with a severe chill, and was very sick all night at Dr. Thos. Corson's house. Feeling a little better next morning, he went on to New Hope to Uncle Doctor Charles Foulke's. There he immediately went to bed, had severe pain in head, occasional vomiting, fever, &c. On the afternoon of Friday, the 19<sup>th</sup> of May, about 6 o'clock, Saml. Corson brought me a letter from Uncle Charles, saying that Edward was very sick and he would like us to come up. Mother and myself immediately got ready, started at 7 P.M. and arrived at New Hope at 12 midnight. He was glad to see us. He looked very sick. We staid with [him] on Saturday and till Sunday noon, when I came home, as Uncle Charles did not think it best to move him for a few days. Mother staid.

On Monday evening, Saml. came home with a telegram from Uncle Charles saying he thought if we were desirous to move Edward, it had better not be delayed. So Saml. and myself started at midnight and reached New Hope at sunrise, having with us Elias H. Corson's big two horse Germantown carriage, and our two black horses. We had a large mattress in the carriage. [On the] 24<sup>th</sup> we started with him at 11 2 A.M., got to Doylestown at 3 P.[M.], took the cars at 3.40 P.[M.], arrived at Pennlyn [sic] at 4.40 P.[M.], took him to Uncle Jesse=s, got some tea and then came home by dusk. He bore the ride very well and we found ourselves at home by 8 P.M. Now from this time until the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June, the day of his death, the account of his illness may be found in the small ARecord Book@ in which I have the records of cases. Suffice it to say, that on the next Friday (May 27<sup>th</sup>) I sent for Doctor Gerhard to see him, not because we thought him so

very ill, but merely to have his aid in the treatment. He thought him in a good way, Aa mild case of typhoid fever, with a few rose-colored spots,@ recommended no cathartics, mild liquid diet and, a little Sp. Mindererus,<sup>cxiii</sup> &c.

Monday [May] 30<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Gerhard and Dr. Foulke saw him again. Think he is doing well.

Wednesday, June 1, pretty comfortable, nose bled a little.

Sunday 5, tonight his nose began to bleed while I was away. I stopped it by injecting per sulph. iron,<sup>cxiv</sup> and by applying ice to temples, &c.

Monday 6, nose began to bled again and I had to plug it by Bellocq's instrument.<sup>cxv</sup> Gerhard came again and brother William came. Think I am nervous.

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>. I did not remove the plugs from the nose until Friday last; all clear since, but today began again, plugged the front of one nostril with cotton, but with dilute per Sul. Iron soon stopped, but blood was very thin and pale.

Monday 13, sent for Gerhard. Thinks there is no danger. Edward seems to suffer no pain. Bowels [have] not moved at all, save by injection and that only in several days.

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>, removed plug this morning. No bleeding. Pulse good. Seems to me convalescent.

Wednesday evening, June 22<sup>nd</sup>. The same day after the above was written, he felt stiffness in his jaws, and told his mother so in the evening. This increased and next day he could only open his mouth so as to put the point of his finger in. Next day worse and so on till there was a perfect Lockjaw. I went twice to Philad. (and sent every day almost for Gerhard) to see Doctors Jackson and Smith in relation to the case but, without much aid. He did not suffer much and they all flattered me, and particularly did Gerhard flatter me that there was no danger, that the stiffness was caused by a pharyngitis which would soon be relieved. He swallowed pretty well, of fluids until two days before his death when he had a violent spasm, and strangling, and after that was afraid to try even the most mild articles. He really seemed to suffer no pain, but sweat profusely and had frequent desire to urinate the last twenty-four hours. Died calmly and easily in the full possession of his mind. Thus passed away a fine son and brother as ever adorned a home.

June 26:Sunday.

At 3 P.M. was the time of the funeral. We gave no word to anybody but a half dozen families of old friends at some distance, viz. George Spencer, Aunt Mary Jones and son and Jesse Garges and Lisa Morris. It was in three newspapers in Philad. for three days. There was a fair attendance of his and our friends, but scarcely a single one of those in the neighborhood who make a business of running to funerals to Asee things.@ Joel Lair and Mary Williams preached in the House, and Charles Adamson also said a few words. We placed him in the Grave Yard of the Orthodox Friends, and Joel also preached at the grave. It was to us and to all that were here a mournful time. He was so young, so kind, so noble, so pleasing in all his being, so highly esteemed in the Navy by the officers, so kind and faithful to the men. He told us that whenever any of the men were in difficulty, and tried for their misdemeanors, he was their counsel, conducted their case for them, and very often got them relieved. On his whole cruise of about 18 months in a hot climate, sailing about 40,000 miles, they lost not a single man by sickness, although they had a crew of 160 [sic] men.

July 15: Friday.

Since Edward's death we have rec'd. letters from several friends, consoling and sympathizing with us, Professor H. H. Smith, Dr. Jackson, Dr. Thos. Corson, Dr. Oberholtzer, and others. I may perhaps insert them.

Last Sunday afternoon, Mr. Smart, Edward's late Medical Stewart, came up from Manayunk to see us. He seems to have had a great affection for Edward, and told us much of him.

We have all felt very sad since Edward's death. Indeed it seems to me, as if I could not cease to regret that I had not at the very first, been alive to the belief that he was in great danger. Gerhard so flattered me that I took it for granted almost that he would surely get well, and thus I fear lost my vigilance.

And now to add to our sufferings, little Frannie is very sick, confined to bed with fever, and is worrying herself with the fear that she has a form like that Edward had. She has been sick a week already.

And yet still more to excite us, we have had since last Saturday (July 9<sup>th</sup>) a fearful rebel raid throughout Maryland and reaching to the very city of Washington, burning bridges on all the rail roads leading to Baltimore, burning a train of cars, robbing passengers, burning Gov. Bradford's house, taking General Franklin prisoner, and on Tuesday attacking the defenses of Washington, from which for two days we could not hear a word, as the wires were down and the rail roads injured.

But thank God! We are safe from them now. Our forces at the Capitol defeated them and are now following them down the London Valley.

This raid was no doubt intended to cause a panic, and got Grant to send his Army, or a great portion of it, from the front of Richmond to defend Washington and thus relieve Genl. Lee. Or else, it was to procure food. They drove off hundreds of cattle, and hogs from Maryland.

Our forces are gathering now again from every state, for 100 days service.

A new drafting or subscription law has been framed and passed by Congress, in which the commutation clause of \$300 is stricken out. So if a man be drawn, he must either go (if able) or give a substitute. The enrolment [sic] has been going on, and is now finished and the 50 days notice of the draft is expected soon. Many rich people are therefore putting substitutes in for three years, and thus have their names taken out of the wheel. Follen paid \$500.00 for one, a black man. William Cresson paid \$560.00, Saml. Corson about \$600.00 and so on.

Follen is still going every day to the Provost Marshal's office as clerk.

Joseph went up yesterday and showed his two discharges from the Army, and was relieved from the Enrolment by Major Haddock. But he has offered himself to Surgeon General King for the 100 days service and has been offered a surgeoncy by him in the 4<sup>th</sup> Regt. of hundred-days-men.

September 5: Monday.

All August and half of July have passed since I last wrote in my journal. I have been indisposed to write either letters, or anything else. But this afternoon is very rainy, and as I have gotten home at 5 P.M., I will try and bring things up. I have had many sorrowful hours about Edward, for fear we did not do all that we should have done. I am



afraid that Doctor Gerhard=s advice to give him Ano solid food@ was a bad one, particularly am I sorry for it as it was in direct opposition to my own plan which was to give solid food. But Edward had great confidence in Gerhard, and as I made no objection to it, he adhered. I think of many things which I might have done differently, or in greater or less degree, but without knowing that they would have done any better. It seems to me now that he may have been much weakened by swallowing the blood, when we did not know he was doing it. But what could have induced the Lockjaw, unless it was the weakness from bleeding. I do not know, and yet it did not occur until about 10 days after the first bleeding and two or three days after the latter bleeding, and at a time when we thought him convalescent. Well it is all over now. He was a noble boy, and we hope not only to remember him, with love and honor, but also hope that the remembrances of one so good, so just, so full of honor, will incline us to live as he lived. Oh! That we may never for a single moment forget his bright example. It shall be my purpose like him to despise all meanness, all trickery, and to try to do all those things which will make us a united and happy family.

Follen has been daily at his work in the Marshal=s office, since last writing, and Joseph has been practicing for Uncle William, who prevailed on him to give up the surgeoncy, offered him, and come to help him, so that he could examine the men liable to be draft[ed], which was ordered for Sep. 5<sup>th</sup>, this very day. So Joseph has been with him almost every day and with us at night.

General Grant has been operating with great vigor, in front of Richmond, and around Petersburg, for more than a month. I cannot pretend to report all his movements and his strategy, and the terrible battles fought. It has been almost a continuous battle, now north of the James River, then south of it, now at Petersburg, then on the Weldon Rail-Road, &c., &c. Within the last fortnight, he occupied the Weldon Rail Road, and after four dreadful assaults by the Rebels to get it, he still holds it. We are sending recruits and substitutes to him very fast, and there is now a fair hope that if the draft be postponed for a short time, our state will furnish its quota. A very important matter to our party it would be, in view of the coming election.

On Saturday last we had the glorious announcement that Sherman, who has been steadily flanking and fighting Johnson and afterwards Hood, who succeeded Johnson all the way from Chattanooga, had succeeded in capturing the important city of Atlanta in Georgia, and also in cutting Hood=s army in two and taking many prisoners. In the same paper, too, we have it announced by the Secretary of War, that General Grant guarantees to bringing the war to a close in three months if speedily furnished with only one hundred thousand, of the 300,000 now being raised. Since the call for 500,000, two hundred thousand have been raised (and he says 100,000 more is all he will want). This is all good, cheering news, in the face of the fact that on the Thursday previous, August 29<sup>th</sup>, the Rear and War Rebels of the North, under the name of the Democratic Party, assembled at Chicago and nominated Genl. McClellan for the Presidency. Defeat of our army is what they desire as the basis of their success and this news from Sherman and Grant is poison to their hopes. I forgot to say in this connexion [sic] that Admiral Farragut, that brave old naval officer, also sent his official account last week that he had compelled the surrender of Forts Gaines and Morgan, at the entrance of Mobile Bay, with all their garrisons, guns, &c.

Shortly after the Rebel Raid of which I have spoken as occurring July 9<sup>th</sup>, a few rebel troops returned and crossed the Potomac, marched rapidly to Chambersburg and set fire to the town and then hastened away. Several hundred houses were burned. But in the midst of all those fearful scenes, the people go leisurely about their business here, and thousands who call themselves Democrats are doing everything they can to embarrass the government, by speaking against it, and by justifying the Rebels.

By an act of our legislature, the people were last month called on to vote for the law, or for amendments to the Constitution allowing soldiers in the field a right to vote. To the shame of the great Democratic Party, the majority of the party voted against it. Shame! Shame! on them. But the vote carried throughout the state by a considerable majority.

Very many of our young men, who went to the Army from this region, have been killed. Yesterday, Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>, Follen and myself attended the funeral of Tyson Staley, son of Charles Staley, who had served in Rush's cavalry for nearly three years without injury until this day a week ago when he was shot dead a few miles beyond Harper's Ferry. Levi and Aaron Mattis, Michael's sons, were both killed about a month since. Charles Streeper, Isaac Eddleman [Edelman], Girard Lentz, Peter Streeper, and Mrs. Matthews have each lost a son. John Cline, and rather Capt. John Kline, and John Styer were also both killed in battle, with others a little further off.

Last Sunday week I was called in consultation to Dr. Merchant M. Jarrett, ill with diphtheria. I found him just from the hospital, and with the voice lost from the disease having reached the trachea. I told them the case was hopeless. He died next day at 9 P.M. He was a fine young man, not yet 23 years old, only a few months younger than his first cousin Dr. Ellwood Corson. By the way, Dr. Ellwood Corson is still on the Monitor before Charleston.

September 11: Sunday.

During the past week there has been no very great move in the Army of the Potomac. In the early part of the week, an official report from Sherman confirmed the prior news that he had captured Atlanta. This is so important that the President issued an order that for this and Farragut's victories, 100 guns should be fired from every Navy Yard in the U. States at noon on three days of the week, and also issued a request that all the people of the U.S. should attend their respective places of worship on this day (Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>) and offer thanks to Providence for these great victories.

The noise of the coming political strife is increasing. Every day gives it strength and depth of tone. McClellan's letter of acceptance is published and the Peace Men repudiate it on account of its warlike tone. Today's paper speaks of a convention of dissatisfied Peace Democrats, Vallandigham, the Woods, &c., &c. In the Union or Lincoln Party, the dissatisfied are beginning to make the best of the circumstances, and while they have objections to Lincoln, they see no hope for the Republic but by securing his election. So, The Tribune, Independence and others are wheeling into line. Anna Dickinson, who was for Fremont as against Lincoln, has declared herself now ready to battle for the Union Party of which he, Lincoln, is the representative. The low thunder of the terrible political storm which is approaching, are heard on every side with increased force on every tomorrow.

Lee, it is said, is massing his forces for another attack on the Weldon Rail Road, held by Grant. If so, we must prepare ourselves for the report of a terrible battle for Grant will never yield it while it can be held by his Army, and as they are well entrenched, the slaughter must be dreadful before he can be routed.

Mother, Follen, Mary and Annie Bacon have just started to Grandmother=s, to take tea. Joseph and myself have been practicing all day. The girls are lying down and so I have concluded to write in my journal, and also record a few cases of diphtheria.

September 13: Monday.

Joseph and myself have been practicing all day. Yesterday he practiced for Uncle Wm. While we were over [the] Schuylkill this morning to see a patient, we went to Kirkner's place below Spring Mill to see the new United States Barracks being built there. They are quite a show, 24 in all I believe there are. Joseph thinks of applying for the situation of Surgeon there.

We have news by this evening Bulletin that the Democratic Convention that nominated McClellan for President is to be called (again) together. The Peace Men who succeeded in getting this resolution passed, who in other words made the Platform, are not satisfied with his letter of acceptance. This is glorious news for us. We hear too that Fremont has withdrawn, so the Democratic Party will likely be divided and ours will be consolidated.

My brother Charles' wife, Sarah Corson died on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August and was buried on the following Sunday and I was to see her a few hours before her death and attend the funeral.

September 20: Tuesday.

Today I took wife and Aunt Martha to the funeral of William Corson's wife. We buried his mother only a few weeks ago. We had two very good sermons. As we came back, we stopped in Norristown at Brother William's office, and he told me of a great victory, of which they heard by telegraph today, by the forces of Sherman over the Rebel forces in the Shenandoah Valley commanded by Early.

September 21: Wednesday.

Today we have some of the details of this great battle. The Rebels were utterly routed with a loss of 500 killed, 7000 wounded, 3000 prisoners. We are gratified with this success. Canons are heard in all directions, fired in honor of the victory. Yesterday, 20<sup>th</sup>, Jos. and Carrie went to N. Hope.

September 26: Monday.

Mr. Cresson and myself left Philad. at noon for Pittsburgh. In order to cross the Alleghenies in the day time, we staid all night at Altoona, and left early next morning. The ride over the mountains was the most beautiful that I have ever seen. It was grand beyond description. The early frost has already changed the green of the Maples, Chestnuts, Hickorys [sic] gums of various hues of red and yellow while innumerable creepers and vines made a scarlet covering for dead trees and bushes. Passing through Pittsburgh, where we dined, we reached New Castle at dusk, put up at the house of Major

Sankey, an old acquaintance, and after supper visited the family of George Crawford, whom I formerly attended. The Crawfords, four brothers, have become very rich.

September 28: Wednesday.

Wednesday morning, took the cars again, passed Greenville where a fair was being held, and arrived at Meadville by late dinner time. After dinner took cars and went 28 miles to Franklin and then seven miles in an old-fashioned stage to Oil City where in mud and darkness we arrived at 9 P.M.

September 29: Thursday.

Hunted up Mr. Wm. Potts who was there attending to the affairs of our Coal-Oil Co., and procuring 3 saddle horses, we started in the interval between rain showers for the great oil diggings.

Before I go further with this narrative, I must go back and say that about a month ago, Mr. Cresson asked me to be one of a company of 15 persons to buy a tract of 63 acres on Cornplanter Creek [Cornplanter Run] in Venango County and within two miles of Oil Creek, and three miles of Oil City. I agreed [and] the Company was formed - \$10,000 given for the land and \$5,000 raised for a working fund, being \$1,000 per man. Mr. Cresson, myself and Rev. George Dehring Wolf were appointed to buy an engine, send it out and have it put in operation to bore for oil on the property. The engine was bought and Wm. Potts sent out to attend to it. Our trip was to see how he was progressing. I might go further and say that for three or four years immense fortunes have been made in that wild region by boring for oil, along a tributary of the Allegheny River called Oil Creek, and people are rushing there from all parts of the Union, as they once went to California.

Much as I know of bad roads, I have never encountered as horrible an one as is to be seen in front of the Petroleum House, from the board pavement in front of which we mounted our Nags. We had scarcely rounded the end of the town, when we found ourselves in a medley of wagons and boats all loaded with barrels, some going up, some going down, some empty, some full of Petroleum. The boats were dragged up the middle of Oil Creek by horses hitched within a few feet of them. Never have I seen so many boats and wagons constantly going to and fro as here. After going a few hundred yards up Cornplanter Run and taking shelter from a shower, we returned to Oil Creek and after another mile or two struck across the Western Hill and made our way down the opposite slope to our ground on Cornplanter Creek. As we were in the midst of a forest, we could take only a ride over the property and come back again to Oil Creek, which we struck on our return at Cherry Run. We then went up Oil Creek till we reached a point about six miles from Oil City. The view here was a strange one. Looking up the valley below the high hills, I was reminded of the East River front of N. York City. It seemed a forest of masts, thousands of derricks from 40 to 60 feet high, oil vats holding 1000 barrels each, engine houses, &c., &c., almost filled up the entire area between the hills for as far as the eye could reach. For 17 miles these derricks extend, I am told. It rained so hard that we were compelled to turn our horses heads towards Oil City. We saw but one flowing well, the great APhillip well, @ which gives 250 barrels a day. Despite the weather they were boring and hauling and working on every side. Near the Phillip well we encountered Messieurs Slemmer, from Norristown, working away at their pumps which had gotten

deranged in some way. At 3 P.M. we were back at our quarters. That night we went to the Sheriff house, and got a bed apiece with Will Potts.

September 30: Friday.

As day dawned, [we] were in the old stage on our way to Franklin, where without breakfast we took the cars for Meadville. Breakfast and a long walk around town (with which we were pleased greatly), and we took cars after 2 P.M. for Corry and from there to Elmyra, which we reached at midnight.

October 1: Saturday.

At 4 o'clock on Saturday morning we were round up and were soon en route for Harrisburg. A few minutes stay there and away again to Reading and from Reading to Norristown. We made the latter place at dark, and home by 9 P.M.

Since our return home, our company has turned over our farm to the William Penn Oil Company and taken for each of us 800 shares of their stock at \$2.50 per share, which gives to me \$2000 worth of stock for one thousand Dollars which I paid. I can sell mine for that much so that I have really cleared \$1000. But I think I will not sell for a short time yet, as the stock is not yet in the market.

**Editor's note:** At this point in the diary, Dr. Corson pasted the published list of THE CONSCRIPTION that appeared in the *NORRISTOWN REPUBLICAN*, Tuesday, August 11, 1863. It lists the names of those drawn in the draft for the various townships in Montgomery County.

October 30: Sunday.

Since last writing, or rather since my return from the West, I have been three times to Laurel Hill, once with mother, once with mother and Carrie, and once with Joseph, to select a burial lot. Mother and the children do not seem satisfied to have Edward in the Orthodox GraveYard as there is no care taken of the yard and the graves. We have selected several beautiful spots, but not settled on any one yet. Joseph is helping me practice and is also attending some of the medical lectures in Philad. He has made application for the post of surgeon of the Discharge Barracks, on the opposite side of Schuylkill below Spring Mill. Major Hancock<sup>cxvi</sup> has charge there. Dr. Lewis W. Read has been at home during one week and has returned to the army.

The transactions of the Med. Society of Pa. have just come out. They contain a paper on the use of ice in scarlet fever and other affections by myself, in which I lay claim to priority in the use of it in these diseases. I have had 50 copies of my paper struck off for distribution to my friends.

November 23: Wednesday.

Much has happened since I last wrote. The event of greatest national importance was the Presidential Election, which came off on the 8<sup>th</sup> and resulted in the complete defeat of McClellan, the candidate of the War Democrats, the Peace Democrats, Traitors, Bounty Jumpers, Skulkers from the Army, Jews and ignorant Catholics. I say ignorant Catholics for some of the educated were with us. Lincoln carried all the states but Kentucky, N. Jersey and Delaware, and with a majority of more than 400,000 votes. For two or three weeks before the election the excitement was intense, but as soon as the

result was announced, the majority was so large that the Rebel-sympathizers shrunk from public view.

Joseph was appointed assistant surgeon at the Barracks below Spring Mill, on Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>, and immediately reported for duty. Dr. Rush Vandyke is Post Surgeon.

Last week Amother@ and myself went again to Laurel Hill and selected two lots in North Laurel Hill. They are very beautifully situated.

On Monday morning Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> we had Edward removed to our lots at Laurel Hill. My friend William Hallowell effected the removal, Jesse Foulke seeing to the disinterment, and Joseph, Follen and Jesse Foulke going down and seeing to the burial again in our lot at Laurel Hill. We expect to have it beautifully enclosed and may now look upon it as the place where we may all, soon or late, be laid. In the beautiful language of the obituary written by his friend Mr. Carrol Tyson, Amay the blessing of God, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, descend and rest upon him forever.” And not only on him, our beloved son, but on all who may be gathered to that enclosure so sacred to affection and memory.

The county is very healthy at present, save an occasional sore throat or diphtheria.

Oil stocks are now upsetting the calculations and judgments of our soberest men. People are crazy to get hold of them. I have for me shares of the Wm. Penn Company's stock, 800 shares.

I had a letter from Ellwood yesterday from the ship Nantucket for Charleston, enclosing a letter and photograph from and of Mr. O'Toole of the Royal Navy, for dear Edward. Of course, the writer did not know of his death.

December 11: Sunday.

Since last writing Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>, there has been but little of interest in the Army save the March of Sherman through Georgia. We expect he is now in Savannah. Every day we have anxiously watched the extracts from Southern Papers, for news from Sherman and thus we can follow him in his steady, devastating and I might say triumphant march. But we are yet in suspense. We have news from him between Millen and Savannah, and our forces have started from the coast to meet him. A severe battle was fought a few days ago at Grahamville, S. Carolina between our forces who had gone out to help or hear from Sherman, and the Rebels. My nephew Ellwood Corson, asst. surgeon on board the Nantucket, was an aid on Commodore Preble's staff. We lost heavily but held our ground. The object was to destroy the Rail Road, between Charleston and Savannah. There has also been a battle between the forces of Hood and our forces under General Thomas at Franklin, Tennessee in which the Rebels suffered heavily. Thousands of our men have been liberated from Rebel prisons during the last three weeks. They were only living skeletons. Hundreds died before they reached home. The cruelties practiced on them have been beyond parallel in any history.

In the midst of all this terrible war, in Virginia, Georgia, Tennessee, where tremendous armies confront each other, with Guerillas ranging over Mississippi, Arkansas, Kentucky, plundering and murdering, never was there a state of equal prosperity among farmers, merchants, and business men as now exists in the Free States of the North. The stock market is crowded with men of every description. The oil region from Canada to Cincinnati is one great mart, where men jostle each other in their greedy search after oil territory, oil wells, and oil stocks. I am still holding on to my shares in

the hope that they will advance. Immense fortunes are being made, both by wells and by stocks.

Wages for laborers are \$2.00 per day;

Butter 75 cts. per pound;

Eggs 50 cts. A dozen;

Beef 20 to 30 cts. [per] pound;

Pork A A “ ;

Lard 35 cts. to 50 cts.

Common muslin which used to sell for 12 2 cts. is now 60 cts

Best unbleached 70 to 75;

sugar, brown 25 cts.

white 28 to 30.

December 30: Friday.

A week since we were cheered by the report (official) of the safe arrival of Sherman before Savannah and his capture of the city, two or three days before Christmas. The rebel General Hardee sneaked out of the city by night, after destroying the Navy Yard, and some other property. Sherman captured an immense amount of property, among which was 33,000 bales of cotton. Sherman is now raiding through Georgia, and perhaps hunting for the Union prisoners.

Two weeks since Butler sailed with an immense number of transports to join the Iron Clad Fleet under Commander Porter in a combined attack on the city of Wilmington, N. Carolina, the great port of entry for the Rebel Blockade Runners. Three days since we were chagrined by the news of their repulse and of the return of the Army force. The Naval force is still there, but of the plan of operation hereafter we as yet know nothing.

Our attack was a terrific one, but we seem to have failed on account of delay in getting up the transports, caused by storms. Lee had thus time to reinforce the forts.

Just at the time Sherman was entering Savannah, General Thomas marched out of Nashville and attacked the Rebel General Hood, who had almost invested the city. Hood was driven with awful slaughter and loss of troops, cannon, and munitions of war, and has been followed ever since by Thomas' victorious troops, until his scattered forces are seeking safety far down below the Tennessee River in Alabama.

While those great acts were in progress, Canby<sup>cxvii</sup> was striking across from Vicksburg with a large force, to cut Hood off[f] from falling back on Mobile, and perhaps to carry that city, while Burbridge<sup>cxviii</sup> and his associates were passing and driving General Breckenridge through the S. W. of Virginia near the Tennessee line and destroying Saltville, and the great salt mines of that region.

So here we are at the close of the year 1864, or at least within one day of it, and prosperous is every quarter. What tomorrow may bring forth I know not, but will report it tomorrow evening if opportunity should offer.

We have had some sleighing and have taken ice. I have cont'd. to practice and have had pretty good health.

Another draft of 300,000 has been ordered, and the Marshals are preparing for it. Deserters and Bounty Jumpers are being shot in great numbers in the Army.

There is a state of great prosperity throughout the northern states, great suffering in many of the Rebel States. Thousands of our released, or exchanged prisoners have returned, mere living skeletons.

The people are greatly jubilant over Sherman's victories and successful march, Hood's great victory, &c.

Grandmother, the children's grandmother Foulke, is now here quite sick, and has been sick here about three weeks. Her son Jesse, daughter Susan and myself lived at the old mansion at Pennlyn [Penllyn] until last October when she went to board and spent the winter with her daughter Priscilla; Susan took boarding in the city and Jesse staid at the old place. Mother soon got sick and after some weeks illness, I had her moved up here. She is now badly jaundiced.

Joseph is now at the Barracks, nearly the whole time, the other surgeon being so good for nothing that he has to remain.

On Christmas morning I gave to Caroline, Tacie and Susan each a five twenty Bond for \$100.00 and to Bertha, Frannie and Mary each 25 shares of Wm. Penn Oil stock, worth \$2.50 per share. Joseph and Follen I thought were making money enough. Besides the above, we all got presents, as also did Isaac, George, Ann and Jane.

December 31: Saturday.

10 o'clock at night. Joseph came over from the Barracks about 2 o'clock and then he and I went out practicing, in a great snow storm, saw some patients and warned a few tenants. All of us at home this evening. Mother, that is Grandmother, quite poorly. Girls are all sewing, Joseph reading poetry, Follen lying on sofa, mother engaged with grandmother upstairs. The year 1864 is nearly out. It has been an eventful year, and to say nothing of the war. One sad event has come to us. It has left a void in our company tonight. Our first born, the idol of his brothers and sisters, and his parents is with us no more, in this world. I hope the coming year will be a more fortunate one with us. But Oh! What terrible scenes have been enacted in these U. States. How many thousand families have been overwhelmed with grief. How many poor widowed mothers have lost their dear sons, often their only sons, and only support, under the most distressing circumstances or duress and starvation.

## 1865

January 10: Tuesday.

Already the 10<sup>th</sup> of January is here, and I have not written a word of the events of the New Year. Butler and Porter have returned from their unsuccessful expedition against Wilmington, N.C.

The governor of S. Carolina has issued a proclamation that every white male citizen from 16 to 60 must be under arms. At the same time Sherman is across the Savannah River and marching either on Charleston or Branchville, the Rebels think, and yet they know not which.

The Rebel Generals Hood and Sterling Price reported dead.

We started in the year by Follen in the Marshal's office at \$1,200.00 per year. Joseph at the Barracks, or Camp Discharge, at \$1,200.00 per year and I at the practice.

In 1864 my practice amounted to \$2,655.00



My ore rent \_\_\_\_\_. [No amount is given for any of these items]  
My tenant houses \_\_\_\_\_  
Monies at interest \_\_\_\_\_  
Mothers ground rents \_\_\_\_\_  
Bank stocks \_\_\_\_\_

January 21: Saturday.

A week ago we heard of the capture of Fort Fisher which guarded the entrance to Wilmington, N. Carolina, after a most disparate bombardment for 3 days and an assault of 6 hours. This was one of the most disparate fights of the war.

Gold has fallen from \$2.25 to 1.95 since the news arrived.

Everywhere we seem to be hearing successfully on the Rebels, Sherman is steadily moving on Charleston, we suppose, from snatches which we see in the rebel papers.

The Rebels are becoming frantic in their desire for peace, though the real rulers and traitors still hold out boldly. Mr. Blair Senr. has been to Richmond ostensibly on his own business, but has had a talk with Jefferson Davis, has since returned to Washington and gone again to Richmond. There are evidently some hopes that the rebels are about to propose some terms, or anxious to obtain a meeting with some official agent of the U.S.

One of our Monitors, the Petapsco, was blown up by a torpedo in Charleston Harbor; nearly all on board perished. This is the great danger of our gunboats and war vessels now. Every place which they attempt to enter, where the rebels have had time to protect, is filled in all its avenues by torpedoes.

Two weeks since General Butler was removed from his command for failing to take Fort Fisher. The people were struck with amazement to hear that one so popular and so beloved by the masses for his stringent and efficient measures towards the Rebels should be so summarily be disposed of; but now that Fort Fisher has been taken, under circumstances of much greater difficulty, they acquiesced in the removal. Success is [the] only test of merit now. He who does not succeed must fall back and let another step in his place. And this is right. It prompts to daring and vigilance.

January 22: Sunday.

Joseph came home after dinner and went away before tea. Chas. Bacon was up to see Grandmother, and we had a sleigh ride to see one of my patients.

The mother of my wife is very poorly. She has been with us about a month, having been brot here sick from Priscilla Wistar (her daughter) in Germantown. She is now heavily jaundiced and growing thinner and weaker. She is 73 years of age, and as she has been complaining for months before the yellowness appeared, I think it is likely there is organic disease of [the] liver that will not be readily cured. The children and their mother have enough to do with nursing her and getting ready for Tacie's wedding which is to come off on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February.

**Editor's note:** The rest of the diary entry on this page is covered by a pasted copy of an order (General Order, No. 48) by John A. Andrew, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, appointing Robert R. Corson, Esq. Assistant

Quartermaster-General of Massachusetts with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. The order was issued by Wm. Schouler, Adjutant-General.

January 28: Saturday.

It has been intensely cold the past week, night and day. No thawing at any time of day.

On Tuesday last I left home at 11 A.M. to go to Burlington, N. Jersey, to attend the meeting (99<sup>th</sup> meeting) of the [Medical] Society, as one of three Delegates from the Pa. State Medical Society. Doctors Maybury & Doctor Traill Green,<sup>cxix</sup> my associates, also attended. I was in Philad. with mother a few hours and at 5 P.M. left for Burlington by the Camden Rail Road. We had a pleasant evening session, and afterward spent part of the evening at Dr. Gauntt's<sup>cxix</sup> house with the officers of the N. Jersey Society, and Mr. Edmund Arnola of the New York Society. On that day we had some very interesting proceedings, besides a most eloquent address by the president, Ezra M. Hunt on "Medicine as a Science, an Art and a Business." Next came the reading of the Sanitary Report in which my essay on the use of ice in Scarlatina and diphtheria was honorably mentioned. I arrived at home at 9 P.M.

February 8: Wednesday.

Wednesday evening 9 o'clock. Daughter Tacy was married today at 11 A.M. to William Leedom Cresson, son of James and Mary Cresson, now of Norristown, formerly our neighbors. His father and mother and brother and wife and sisters, and Jonathan Cresson were present on their side, and all our family and Emily Bacon and Aunt Martha Corson and Samuel and Helen, on our side, Samuel Evans, a Justice of the Peace was present to witness the ceremony and sign the certificate, which was read by my nephew Samuel M. Corson. They repeated the ceremony used by Friends. After the ceremony and signing the certificate, we had "oysters and other fixins" and cakes, &c., and at one P.M. the bride and groom and Joseph and Mary Cresson, and Jonathan Cresson and daughter Susan Corson went in carriages to Conshohocken, where the bride and groom took the cars, intending to go to New York by the 4 P.M. train from Kensington. The others returned by 2 P.M. and at 3 P.M. all the sisters had gone home, and Joseph and myself went out to see patients. So it all passed off very quietly and without much trouble. A few days before the wedding we had been several times to Philad. to get furniture for them. They are going to board with AAunt Ann Corson,@ my brother Joseph's widow. Things are so excessively dear and houses scarce and high, that we thought that better than keeping house at present. The furniture for their room, which is very large, cost us about \$500.00. They are to have board for \$11.00 per week. As he only gets a salary of \$1,000.00 per year, he can not well afford to pay more.

February 11: Saturday.

Tacy and husband returned from N. York today and are now at Mr. Cresson's at Norristown. I called on George Maulsby, surgeon of the Navy, at his sister's, Mrs. Albertsons, today and spent an hour with him. He has just returned from the bombardment of Fort Fisher. He is the surgeon of the Brooklyn.

February 12: Sunday.

Snowed part of last night and all this day. I did not practice, but went to dinner in a most furious storm, at Aunt Martha, and spent three hours there with her family and surgeon Maulsby, her brother.

Mother-in-law is no better. She is confined to bed, eats but little and is still heavily jaundiced.

February 13: Monday.

Deep snow on the ground. Carol and Susan started early in the sleigh (driven by the colored boy George) to Norristown to fin[d] Tacie's furniture, which was to be sent there in the Rail Road Cars on Saturday. They returned at noon as the furniture did not come. Joseph came from the Barracks at noon and will stay all night with us. He went with me to see patients in the afternoon. Thermometer, 3E below zero this morning, and about 14E below freezing at lunch today.

February 15: Wednesday.

Reception at Mr. James Cresson's. last evening. Tacy and William Cresson came and spent the evening. Today from 11 A.M. till 2 P.M. Mr. Cresson, the father, had a reception of the friends of the family for the married sons and their wives. Caroline went up early with Joseph and Susan. She dressed Tacy's hair and saw her dressed, and she then came home, as she did not wish to stay. Joseph and Susan and Jon't. Cresson and Mary Cresson acted as brides maids and groomsmen for Tacy and her husband. Clarence Cresson and his wife had none of their bridal party present but his sister Frances. There was a very large concourse of friends called. It began to snow about 9 A.M. and by two P.M. was raining. George took our children up in the two horse sleigh and brot Caroline home with him again at 11 A.M. At 2 P.M. I sent him for Joseph and Susan in the new two- horse carriage. Aunt Harriet Foulke, Uncle Charles Foulke's wife, is here, and Joseph is going to stay till morning. He comes here from the Barracks now about twice a week to stay all night, and returns in the morning so as to be there soon after sunrise. He has Mr. Cresson's young horse there to use. Wife and I did not go to the reception. Mother-in-law is very poorly now; cannot sit up at all scarcely.

Follen is still at the Marshal's office as Chief Clerk with a salary of 1200 Dols. yearly, and Joseph, assist. Surgeon at Camp Discharge at [the] same salary.

Last week I took \$1000.00 worth of shares (2500) in the Beaver Branch Coal Company. I was induced to Ago in@ by Dr. Mayburry who has taken 5000 shares. Robt. R. Corson will take one half of mine.

Last week the suit with Mulvany, which I had moved to the Supreme Court, was decided against me, so now my lot will go from me and I shall have about \$100.00 cost to pay. Well it may be an advantage to me yet; we know not what good may come out of seeming evil.

February 24: Friday.

One week since we heard of the evacuation of Charleston, and the entry of the Union Troops. Many people hung out flags, cannons were fired and there was a general joyous time. Since that time we have heard of Sherman capturing Columbia, the Capitol of South Carolina, and yesterday he was reported as being in Winnsboro, and driving Beauregard on towards the North. Two hundred cannons were gotten at Charleston, and the rebels fired the city before leaving, and destroyed a great part of it. Two days since

we rec'd. the news of the capture of Fort Anderson by our forces on their way to Wilmington, N. Carolina, and this evening we [empty space]. Expeditions have gone out from Pamlico Sound and also from Newbern [New Bern] at the head of Albemarle Sound [N.B. should be Neuse Sound], and are pressing right through N. Carolina to capture Goldsboro, Raleigh, Fayetteville, &c., and in conjunction with Sherman, who is pressing up from North Carolina, to cut and block every Rail Road which goes to Richmond. We are also filling up our army at a rapid rate by recruiting and sending substitutes in anticipation of the coming draft.

Follen who is chief clerk at the Provost Marshals office in Norristown says they are putting in about 44 men daily, everywhere they are sending men to the Army.

At the same time the desertions from the Rebel Army in front of Richmond are numerous beyond all former times. 187 came over in one bunch on Wednesday last.

Today's paper gives us the news from rebel papers of a few days back, in which we find that the arming of the slaves is determined on by the rebel Congress. Let them do it if they dare. If they should, they will only arm them for us to use. They will come over to us by Companies and Battalions. The slaves everywhere understand the war.

Joseph is over today; he and I have had a fracture of leg to dress since he came. Carrie and Susan went, two days since to visit their friends in West Chester, will return on tomorrow.

Grandmother still getting weaker, and no change for the better in any way.

I am doing a good deal of practice. Jos. comes from the Barracks two or three times a week and stays all night and does what he can for me.

**Editor's note:** Pasted over the writing on top of the page were newspaper clippings reporting on general orders of Major General O. O. Howard and on AGeneral Hooker=s Retrograde Movement. Most, however, was devoted to the ADepartment Of The Ohio@, reporting on the case of Mr. Vallandigham, his application for a Habeas Corpus and the reply of Gen. Burnside. The pasting made one word totally illegible.

March 31: Friday.

My Farmer has been [sick] for two or three weeks, which will account for no entries being made.

At my last writing, the army under Terry<sup>cxxi</sup> and the fleet under Porter<sup>cxxii</sup> had taken Wilmington, and the army under Sherman had taken Columbia, S. Carolina. Since then they have both advanced and have steadily driven the enemy and are now, both, at Goldsboro, N. Carolina. Since then Sheridan<sup>cxxiii</sup> too, has swept down the valley of the Shenandoah with his troops and routed the rebels, under Early,<sup>cxxiv</sup> and demolished Rail Roads and canals and bridges and mills, from within sight of Lynchburg, almost to the very gates of Richmond, then passed over to the White House, then to City Point, joining the Army of Grant.

The draft too has been going on everywhere and thousands of men are passing almost daily to the Army of the Potomac. Desertions too, from the rebel army are numerous and frequent every day. So we are steadily hemming the rebels in, and strengthening the army which immediately confronts them. And yet a week ago, in his desperation, General Lee made an assault on our lines in the night, carried Fort Stedman and pressed back a portion of our line. But at daylight, the gallant Hartranft of

Norristown, the Colonel under which Joseph first served as a private, beat back the foe, retook Stedman and captured more than 2000 prisoners. (When the 4<sup>th</sup> Regt. refused at Bull Run to go into the fight, they were held up to scorn by many of the papers, and this was continued until after the ADefense of the 4<sup>th</sup> Regt. @ written by me was published in the Enquirer). This brave conduct on the part of General Hartranft has been rewarded by the President conferring on him the rank of Major General by Brevet. The rebels lost heavily by this battle, although, to them, it began so prosperously.

At this very moment our army at Richmond is ready to spring on the enemy, while Hancock in the Shenandoah Valley and Terry, Porter and Sherman with more than 100,000 men guard the passes in North Carolina.

Mother has gradually weakened since my last report, and without much pain or apparent suffering, died at 3 A.M. yesterday morning. She is to be buried at Laurel Hill tomorrow; [we were] to meet there at one P.M. She became so dull about 3 days before her death as not to notice anyone. She died so easily that my wife and her sister Rebecca Corson and myself could not tell exactly when it occurred.

April 1: Saturday.

The funeral day was bright and lovely, till we were nearly to Laurel Hill when there was a gust of hail. And after being a few minutes at the grave, we were forced to leave and go into the carriages. As we turned to leave the grave I showed little Mary, who had hold of one of my hands, the grave of dear Edward, which is only a few feet from that of his grandmother. After we had procured our two lots, Robt. R. Corson and Jesse Foulke and mother got the next lot to us; so it was all ready for her, which was a comfort to her, as the Meeting at Pennlyn [Penllyn] has been done away and the graveyard attached to it is not likely to be used much more. In talk of having father Foulke, Aunt Susan and Uncle George Foulke moved to Laurel Hill.

April 3: Monday.

In the evening of April 2<sup>nd</sup> the news came that a great battle had been fought for three days and that Petersburg and Richmond were ours. The news could not be credited as we had not a rumor scarcely of the fight, so still had everything been kept. But as every man that came from the city towards night, or from Norristown, confirmed the news, the excitement became intense. People hearing the news hollered it to all they met.

Now every paper confirms the news and the people felt satisfied. Petersburg was captured. Richmond evacuated, and Lee's army flying in disorder, retreating and directing towards Burkeville. Jefferson had left on Sunday evening.

April 5: Wednesday.

Sheridan has gotten ahead of Lee, has had a battle with him; captured many of his officers and great number of prisoners and much artillery.

April 9: Sunday.

Every day has brought us more and more of the details of the great victories. The Negro Troops under General Weitzel [were] the first to enter the city.

Yesterday we raised a beautiful flag, 3 yards long, from the top of our house. Mother and the girls labored most diligently making it, on Friday evening and part of Saturday. It is about 15 feet above the top of the chimney.

It seems now as if the rebel army under Lee is destroyed. Tomorrow will give us the news of what has been done the last 3 days.

President Lincoln has been in Richmond ever since the city was taken. No one is now allowed a pass to go there from the North.

**Editor's note:** The next four pages are all newspaper clippings describing "THE WAR FOR THE UNION," "Richmond and Virginia Rescued" (The Press, Tuesday, April 4, 1865), excerpts from the *Official War Gazette*, "**Richmond and Victory!!** BABYLON HAS FALLEN!" Corson then makes the following entries in his diary:

I have pasted in some of these scraps from Newspapers to show in what language the victories were announced. All was joy throughout the land, and though many did not like that such lenient terms should be given to the rebels, yet very soon, nearly all became not only reconciled to it, but glad that it was so. It seemed to me even the rebels feel the goodness of our President, who, they have been told would be severe on them. It looks now as if the army under Johnson will soon capitulate as Lee has done. There is great rejoicing everywhere at the prospect of speedy peace, a peace conquered by our army.

## THE POST CIVIL WAR YEARS, 1865 - 1877

### 1865

April 15: Saturday.

Just after we had eaten breakfast and while preparing to go out, Bertha came into the room and said, the President was shot last night through the head. Saml. told her so she said. I hooted at it, and when she added that he was shot at the Theater I said it was a foolish rumor. But Bertha was sad and seemed to believe the news. Without giving any belief to it I went to Jeremiah Comfort to see his child and as soon as I arrived, Isaac Roberts spoke of it. I said, it is not true is it? He replied that he did not know that anyone doubted it, and at once pulled out a paper, and there sure enough was the telegram from E. M. Stanton, Sec. of War. By this time the papers had been received by nearly all who took daily papers, and the horrible news spread like wildfire, carrying sorrow and fear to millions. Never has such a sensation been produced before. Strong, rough men shed tears and sobbed as they talked. Women and children, men and boys, were sad, and many of them sickened by the intelligence. Flags were lowered from the poles, put at half mast, and tied with crape. Before night nearly every house had crape on the door, or festooned along the front of the house, while small flags fluttered from every window with a black ribbon, a bit of silk, or crape, tied around to it. Nor was this murder of Mr. Lincoln all that was announced by the Secretary of War. At the very same time that Mr. Lincoln was murdered, Mr. Seward, the Secretary of State, who had been confined to his bed for about two weeks by a broken arm and broken jaw from jumping from a carriage while the horses were running away, was attacked by a ruffian and stabbed three times in the neck, and his son Frederick, assistant Sec'y. of State, was struck on the head and had his skull broken, and two other persons in the room were greatly injured. These dreadful reports burst upon us with a stunning effect.

April 16: Sunday.

There was a rush on the cars this morning for Sunday papers. Follen went down and got two. It appears the murderer is J. Wilkes Booth, a son of the Tragedian Booth and only 26 years of age. The excitement is intense; people cannot work.

April 17: Monday.

There are but few stores open in the cities. The mourning is almost universal. A few Copperheads who made expressions of gratification in regard to Mr. Lincoln's death would have been killed but for the police. The Age office was attacked and it was with great difficulty that the whole police force could keep off the populace. Every day we have Telegrams from Secretary Stanton in relation to Mr. Seward and son. Mr. Lincoln died Saturday morning 22 minutes after 7 o'clock

April 22: Saturday.

Today at one P.M., self and Frannie and mother (wife) went to Philad. in the large two-horse carriage with George to drive us, to see the reception of Lincoln's body. After stopping a short time at Laurel Hill and visiting the graves of dear Edward and his

grandmother Foulke, we arrived in Philad. at 4 P.M. We drove to the office of the Schuylkill Navigation Company in Walnut Street above 4<sup>th</sup>. Uncle Charles Bacon being Treasurer, invited us to come there. We find Caroline and her friends already there. Leaving mother there, George and I put up the horses at Livery and then went to Walnut and Broad streets where after waiting till 6 o'clock we saw the greatest procession ever beheld in Philad. of the hundreds of thousands who crowded the streets, of the flags and crape draping every house, of whole streets with not a window open, all the shutters being bound, of the mournful and silent procession, miles in length, I need not speak. History will tell it all. At 9 o'clock, [a] great part of the procession had passed Uncle Charles' office and mother and Frannie and self came off. We left the city at 9 P.M. and arrived at home just before Eleven, tired and sad. Joseph and the girls were waiting up for us, and after a good supper we retired thankful that we had with others swelled the multitude of mourners of one so good and just.

April 24: Monday.

Yesterday thousands went from the country to see Mr. Lincoln in his coffin in Independence Hall. The body was to be seen from 6 A.M. till 2 A.M. on [the] next day (today). At daylight thousands had assembled; by 8 A.M. Chestnut St. was filled from [the] Delaware River to Broad St. Tens of thousands came away unable to get into the room, though many of them had stood in line and been squeezed almost to death for many hours. He is now on his way to New York. The escort is large, and composed of high officials.

In the midst of our sorrow a report comes by this morning paper that Genl. Sherman has made a Peace Agreement with the Rebels, Johnson, &c., giving them all the civil and political rights they held before, assuming the Confederate debt, bringing in all the States, &c., and that when they were conquered and at his mercy. Thank our good old President Lincoln, he had never given Sherman any right to treat with them and so it all will go for nothing, sure that it has given the Rebels Generals a chance to escape, and made Sherman liable to the imputation of being a fool.

April 29: Saturday.

Genl. Johnson has surrendered to General Grant. Upon hearing of Sherman's silly Peace-Contract with the Rebels, the Government dispatched General Grant at once, to the scene of operation, Raleigh, to break off the Truce and press the war, unless the Rebels surrendered unconditionally as Lee did. On finding that this game with Sherman was blocked, they at once surrendered all the forces this side of the Mississippi River. So the war is now over. Jefferson Davis is a fugitive, escaping it is said, with 13 millions of gold and silver into Texas. Our Generals everywhere in the South must have been telegraphed to arrest his flight.

Booth has been shot and Harold his companion in flight captured. They were taken in Virginia near Port Royal on the Rappahannock River. His brother Junius Brutus Booth and brother-in-law John Clarke, both actors, have also been arrested, and many others who have become connected with it. Edward Ingersoll who had made an ugly speech in N. York the night before the murder was attacked on Wednesday last by Capt. Wittington, a wounded soldier, because he would not apologize for it. Ingersoll was pretty well caned, and then lodged in the Station House to secure him from the mob. His



brother who attempted to visit him also got a few knocks. The people are not to be trifled with now. One of our neighbors a few miles down the ridge was waited on a few days ago and told to apologize for saying Lincoln ought to have died four years ago. He began to cry, was very sorry for it, hoped they would forgive him, &c. Another, Jerry Rapine, a patient of mine, for using the same expression at Buttonwood Inn, was twice knocked down and kicked into the road, by a neighbor who was there reading the newspaper. Hearing that a carter, who drives for the Jones boys had made a similar expression while taking lumber down to Edward Knous's, I reported him to his employers, and told them how determined the people were not to patronize them if they cont'd. him in service and that he could not go again into that region with Joseph. On their telling him, he was so frightened as to take to his bed and was not out again for a week. He says now, after apologizing, he never suffered so for a week in his life. I mention those things to show the feelings of people.

May 11: Thursday.

Since last writing, many persons have been arrested for complicity with the murder of President Lincoln and yesterday the trial of them began. The counsel whom they have chosen to defend them, did not appear. There have been very many arrested. President Johnson has offered a reward of \$100,000 for the arrest of Jefferson Davis and smaller sums for Beverly Tucker, C. C. Clay, George N. Saunders and others.<sup>cxxv</sup> Our last advices from Jeff. were that he was trying to get to Texas, being accompanied by 2000 cavalry under Wade Hampton.<sup>cxxvi</sup> Breckenridge and the Cabinet are generally with him.

The news of the President's death has reached England. There as well as in every country in Europe, it seems as if the mourning is universal. Nothing like it has ever been known.

The operations of our government go on as regularly as though nothing had happened. Mr. Seward and his son are both improving. The President has issued a proclamation that the war is at an end, and warns all nations to refuse to harbor the Rebel private vessels.

My nephew, Assist. Surgeon Ellwood M. Corson, arrived from Charleston about 10 days since. He has been on the iron clad Monitor, Nantucket nearly a year. He has much of interest to tell us of the doings there. He was one of the first to get up to the city on the morning after the Rebels left it. He describes the joy of the slaves as being of the most -----[illeg.] nature.

Two days ago he was ordered to the Marine Hospital at Phila., the very same place that dear Edward filled about three years ago. It is a pleasant situation.

May 14: Sunday.

Joseph and myself have just returned from a visit to a child half a mile from here, and there we were shown a Sunday Paper, which had a Telegram from Stanton, Sec. Of War, announcing the capture of Jefferson Davis at Irwinsville in Irwin Co. Georgia. He was caught by Col. Prichard's Michigan Cavalry. It is a good job for them, 200,000 Dollars in all having been offered for him.

Caroline, our daughter, is quite sick. It seems like neuralgia, but has been so persisting for several days that I fear it may be pleurisy.

Joseph was relieved from duty at the Camp last Friday; also the surgeon, all the volunteer surgeons and acting surgeons and assistants have been relieved in this department. It is amazing how rapidly the Government is diminishing its expenses by discharging soldiers and employees. It has already made a reduction of nearly one million dollars daily, and now we have news, today, that the Army of the Potomac and Sherman's army have arrived at Alexandria, and after a review which will be held in a few days, will be discharged. 4 army corps, two black and two white, each 40,000 men will be all that will be left of the vast union army.

May 15: Monday.

Jefferson's capture confirmed by the papers this morning. He tried to escape by putting on his wife's dress. They are bringing him on rapidly. Well now after all the misery he has caused our poor people, I pity the poor creature. His family and many friends were with him. Slavery had beguiled all these people. When I think how for 30 years they have committed their atrocities on the Abolitionists as well as on the slaves I cannot but feel that the way of the Transgression is indeed hard.

While I write, 6 P.M., Susan has just arrived from Philad. where she has been since Saturday morning. She says there is nothing new today; but brings with her Harper's Weekly, which contains many wood-cuts of the reception of President Lincoln, in different cities. Oh! How that man was beloved.

Tacie and her husband came down today, in the carriage Follen went up with, and spent the day with us returning in time for Follen to come down this evening.

A Military Commission of nine Army Officers trying the murderers of Lincoln. Much of the testimony published today.

I have a good deal of scarlet fever to treat. Now Joseph aids me.

May 19: Friday.

In the past 4 days we have had regular reports of the trial of the assassins of the President. The trial goes on rapidly and efficiently. The government is also arresting the disloyal governors of the Rebellious States. Gov. Brown of Georgia has just arrived at Washington. Gov. Aiken of S. Carolina and Vance of N. Carolina are also there. Jeff Davis is expected tomorrow. The Armies of Meade and Sherman and the Cavalry of Sheridan will pass through Washington on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. I will be greatly gratified if I can go and see the entry of the Troops.

June 1: Thursday.

Caroline still sick in bed, but better I think. Joseph and myself doing much practice. Scarlet fever prevails. Produce coming down rapidly. Corn now only 1.20 cts. per bushel.

Caroline is still poorly, but riding out a little nearly every day. I think she has some effusion (pleuritic). She has been twice purely cupped<sup>cxxvii</sup> and three times blistered. I fear that she will be greatly broken down. She is weak at best.

The murderers of the President still on trial. Jeff Davis has been, since I last wrote, brot to Fortress Monroe and securely confined in one of the Case-mates, and it is said, he has been ironed on the legs. C. C. Clay was also confined there. Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Clay and their children were all sent south again. Howell Cobb and other

prominent men, Mallory, &c., are also in “durance vile.” Jeff Davis was, two or three days ago, brot to Washington, and is now there on a Monitor in the Potomac River.

Last night’s paper tells us they are examining witnesses to indict General Lee for treason. Davis has been indicted and will be tried in a few days.

Hood has surrendered all the forces in Texas, and in all the regions west of the Mississippi. Genl. [Edward] Kirby Smith escaped to Mexico. Breckenridge has not been heard from since he left Davis in Georgia; he has probable gotten to Mexico.

One of the grandest reviews that ever came off was seen at Washington on [the] 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of May. No such sight has ever been seen in this or any other country. Carrie’s sickness prevented me from going. Brother William was there. Meade’s army went through on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Sherman’s on the 24<sup>th</sup>. 40 men abreast they were for many hours passing. It was a splendid sight, but how sad to those whose sons were not in their places, but who were killed in battle, or starved to death in prisons!

Public sentiment is swelling up against Davis and Lee and Cobb and all those who spoke no word to save our men from starvation in their prisons. The cry is for vengeance, and its tones are higher and higher every day.

I got a letter yesterday from Doctor Hay, formerly passed assistant surgeon with Edward, from Paris. He desires to present two small Chinese pictures to us which have been with us ever since Edward came home.

June 25: Sunday.

It is 3 weeks since I have written. Caroline still continues very poorly. She rides out every day when the weather is fine, but she is very weak, exceedingly pale, and has labored under an effusion into the pleural cavity. To look at her, her paleness, emaciation, and stooping posture, an observer would declare at once that she was in consumption. On examination of the lung, shows an absence of respiratory murmur, everywhere except in the subclavicular region, great vocal resonance, and flatness of all the posterior and lower part of the lung. I still have hope her symptoms are caused by effusion and not by tuberculosis.

Joseph has been going five days in every week to Philad. to attend lectures on Operative Surgery under Agnew. Last week he was attending a Court Martial of Captain Kilgore, quartermaster at Camp Discharge. It seems to be an attempt on the part of Col. Hancock, who commands the camp, to rid himself of Kilgore who is a very thorough officer and honest man. We had many visits from the officers of the camp, and from their wives. Captn. Kilgore and wife, Captn. Pike and wife, Captn. Muchler and wife, Lieut. Barr, &c.

We have been taken hay the last week.

Jeff Davis, Stephens, &c., are still in prison. Every day almost sees others of the leading Rebels gathered up and imprisoned. Everywhere the Rebellion is crushed. The leading men of the Rebels are seeking protection under the Amnesty Act.

The reconstruction of the states is going on rapidly in accordance with President Johnson’s view. It is not generally liked by the Republican Party on account of its not giving Suffrage to the Blacks. But we have a hope that Congress will refuse to let their Senators and Representatives come into Congress. They, the people, are electing a new legislature to carry on the business under the old Constitution and State Laws. But they do not allow the Blacks to vote for those legislators, and they are passing laws to operate

on the Blacks. This will not do. Slavery will soon be as efficient as before. But meetings are being held, speeches being made and much [is] printed on the subject so as to enlighten the people before the meeting of Congress so that they may be induced to refuse seats to the Congressmen who may be sent from the Rebellious States.

July 4: Tuesday.

The preparations for grand celebrations of the day were general and magnificent. I was at home nearly all day. Joseph practiced and in the afternoon, started to Camp Discharge, but soon met Capt. Kilgore and family coming here, so he returned with them and we all spent the evening together. As soon as it became dark, rockets and other fireworks could be seen in all directions. But all around us for a mile or two not a sound of revelry could be heard. Indeed I never passed a quieter Fourth. At Norristown, Conshohocken, Chestnut Hill and every small town throughout the whole state this went on for celebrating.

Caroline still continues poorly, just able to sit up part of the day, and to ride a few miles. Cough increases a little. Looks like one in consumption. Right lung very imperfect in its sounds, but as the defects are in the lower part and as they were apparently caused by the imperfectly cured pleurisy, I hope she is not affected by tuberculosis. I have been reading much today in Poetic Quotations and the following couplet, which I often used to repeat when young but which had not been thought of for years, attracted my attention:

All habits gotten by unseen desires,  
As brooks make rivers, rivers run to seas.  
Dryden.

How careful then we should be to form good habits and break up bad ones, be they of what ever kind. I will try it. H.C.

July 11: Tuesday.

Caroline still sick and growing more feeble. There has been a lump or swelling developing between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> ribs on the right, for three or four weeks. At my request Dr. Wm. Corson and Dr. Atlee examined her with me today and we opened it. There was not more than half a teacupful of matter, and it does not communicate with the cavity of the chest. It is now about 3 days since she was able to ride out in the large carriage, not because it hurt her, or she was too weak to ride, but because she could not walk up and down stairs without exhaustion.

July 12: Wednesday.

No relief from the difficulty of breathing by opening of the abscess. The cough is very annoying when she is awake, unless when under the influence of sulphate of morph[ine], of which she generally takes 1/4 gr. morning and evening now; at first she only took 1/8 at night, then in a few weeks 1/8 night and morning, then 1/4 at night and 1/8 morning, now 1/4 morning and evening. The cough worries her greatly, but only brings up a little white phlegm after many attempts. There must be a large abscess in the

lower part of the right lung, which keeps up the frequency of the pulse and the heat and dryness of skin.

July 18: Tuesday.

Yesterday afternoon the cough was so greatly harassing that I gave 2 gr. morph[ine], which greatly relieved the cough and she slept some. Her mother told me in the evening that Caroline had coughed twice, matter that was very offensive (previously there was not any smell) and just what she discharged on a former occasion. She had an abscess of the lung when she was six years old. I thought she was probably deceived; but at one and an half A.M. this morning, she awoke after 3 hours of partial calm and some sleep, and began to expectorate most offensive pus, accompanied gas of so fetid a character that we could scarcely stand near the bed. Her mother, Aunt Becky and myself staid with her and from that time until 2 o'clock today she cont'd. to cough it up, until she was so exhausted that I gave 1/4 gr. Morph[ine] to enable her to get some rest. This composed her and enabled her to lie, with pillows raised very high behind her, until next morning, Wednesday at 6 o'clock.

July 19: Wednesday.

Again she began to cough and cont'd. till 2 P.M., throwing up great quantities, six or seven times the basin was emptied. At 2 P.M. she took 1/4 gr. morph[ine] and, not stopping the cough, as much more in an hour, and from this time till next morning was enabled to take tonics, stimulants, food, &c., and get many short naps.

July 20: Thursday.

At sunrise the cough began, again to cough up the offensive pus as before. I might here say that a few days ago her mother, in dressing the abscess on the side, which continues to discharge, discovered a swelling on the back, about over the 6<sup>th</sup> rib and between the shoulder blade and spine, where two or more weeks ago she complained of great tenderness, but scarcely mentioned it since if not pressed on. I proposed to her this morning to open it as it was evidently full of matter, but she proposed leaving it until noon, when mother would again dress the side. She did not seem worse this morning than yesterday, but as I said, she began in the morning to cough up the fetid sputa as before. After coughing much up, the sputa began to be less dark and more nummular and to me the case seemed favorable. At one P.M. she took chicken broth and some of the meat, fed to her by her mother, as she leaned back in bed supported by a pillow on my breast. (All the night before and all the forenoon she was taken freely of tonics, stimulants and food). She then asked me to go down to dinner, as the family had been sometime at it. Just as I finished, her mother came down to hers, her sisters Rebecca and Emily being with Carrie. Mother finished her dinner and returned. I also was going up, when one of the children said I need not go, they wanted Susan to come. She wanted to get on the commode, which was along-side the bed. She did so and had a motion of the bowels. She raised herself on her feet and with a little help, laid down on the bed with her head and shoulders greatly elevated as usual. In a few minutes she said she was sick. They called for me. I hastened to her. They were supporting her. She was conscious, but her head was drooping helplessly to one side, the pulse distinct but slow. (I forgot to say that just before I went down to dinner, I observed that the sputa was changed. It was

not as it had been thick and hard to eject from the mouth completely, but much whiter, quite thin, liquid and like that which I had seen in a fatal case of copious bronchial effusion in an acute bronchitis, some years ago). It now occurred to me that such an effusion was filling up the sound lung and I placed her head gently over the side of the bed so as to favor the exit of the fluid from the windpipe, but it was useless. She at once began to die, and without speaking again, without a moan or a sigh, or a motion of the limbs, or a contortion of the face, in about 15 minutes.

“Her spirit departed on its way,  
to unknown worlds.”

A person, noble, more affectionate daughter never graced any household. How sedulous to aid her mother in the case of the younger children! How anxious to cultivate in them purity of life, respect and kindness for others! How gentle and obliging to her brothers! How affectionate and devoted to her parents! The blessings of them all will go with her to her abode of Peace. Hiram Corson, July 21, 1865, 3 P.M.

This evening, Robt. R. Corson came up to see us, but returned to Philad. to have a notice of the funeral inserted in 6 papers, The Press, Inquirer, Ledger, North American, Evening Bulletin, Evening Telegraph. We will do no other inviting at all.

“Uncle William” came down in the evening and saw a patient for me. Joseph has been doing nearly all the business now for some time. The children were all present when Caroline died except Follen, he had gone to his office (Marshals Office) in Norristown, and as she passed off so unexpectedly, we could not get him home in time, but he came [as] soon as possible. Tacie had been here for some days, and her husband William Cresson came down and brot Carrie’s Aunt Hannah Bacon about sunset.

July 21: Friday.

Our house has been very quiet today. Doctor Reid of Conshohocken came to offer his services to me. Brother Alan Corson came to see us, also Mrs. Cresson, and Miss Elizabeth Albertson. Miss Fritz also sent a note expressing sympathy and offering assistance. E. H. Corson and wife also came last evening. We have sent a telegram for Aunt Harriet Foulke, Dr. Charles Foulke’s wife. Jesse Foulke was also here today. Aunt Harriet came here with uncle Jesse just now (8 P.M.). She had come by way of Doylestown to Pennlyn [Penllyn]. Mr. James Cresson and Will also came down. Elias and wife and Saml. M. Corson and mother.

July 22: Saturday.

Dull and damp. To help the girls in the kitchen we have only Mary Smith, Grandmother Foulke’s old girl.

July 23: Sunday.

The funeral met today at 2 o’clock. At 3 we left this house. There was a very large concourse of people, young and old, although we had not sent an invitation to but a single family. We had advertised in Philad. papers, and had it given out to friends in Friends Meeting.

We buried her by the side of her brother, at his right hand, so they lie together, our eldest son and our eldest daughter. Oh! How good, how noble, and, to us how beautiful they were. They were all we could wish children to be. There is one consolation left us,

namely that now, they are from sorrow. Caroline was so sensitive that unless happily situated in the world, she would have suffered acutely. It is sad indeed thus to part from them but in the hope that it is all for the best we will resign ourselves to the inevitable fate.

September 12: Tuesday.

Belle Bush, the Norristown poetess, has sent me a copy of her poem written on the death of a young poet, De-Vere Vining, but made general in its terms so as to apply to those who have been bereaved, and, as it seems, intended as well for us as for the De-Vere family, or rather intended when she was writing it finally to apply to us. I have read it several times; have read it also to mother (wife). It is very kind in Miss Bush thus to think of us.

**Editor's note:** At this point in the diary there are pasted two newspaper clippings, a two column obituary, The Death of Mrs. Eliza H. Roberts, written by Hiram Corson, and a poem, Thoughts On Death, written by Hiram Corson's nephew George N. Corson, Esq. The poem occasioned by the death of Caroline makes reference to her and her brother Edward Corson who preceded her in death. It is dated Philadelphia, July 25, 1865. By way of explanation, Corson makes these entries in his diary regarding the clippings:

I was asked by my brother William to write an Obituary for Mrs. Roberts, but I had thought of doing it before he spoke to me and I wrote up the above. The above Thoughts On Death were written by my nephew George N. Corson, Esq.. They have at least the merit of embodying thoughts in relation to the Dear Departed ones. Even that is to us a great thing, but mother thinks it quite beautiful. Those thoughts were published in a new newspaper, just started in Norristown and called The Independent, edited by George N. Corson. I am rather pleased with the verses myself, and gratified that George wrote them, for I know he is so very busy in his office, and with his paper, that the time occupied in composing them was precious to him.

October 8: Sunday.

I have not been well for some few days; have twice within the last 3 months been very sick at stomach with bowel complaint, but today I feel better and was at Meeting this forenoon. Indeed I have been practicing some every day, though Joseph has done most of the work.

Since Caroline's death we have had a great many patients with dysentery and fever, so that both of us have been very busy.

Bertha and Frannie went to Miss Churchman's school in Philad. Their cousin Ida Corson is with them. They all come home every Friday afternoon. They are well pleased with the school.

Since June I have been one of the School Directors for the township, and in order to [do] a thorough reform in the schools, I have devoted much time to them, and the effects are apparent in the regular attendance, good department, and great improvement in learning.

October 17: Tuesday.

Today self, wife and her sister Rebecca Corson went to Samuel Hill to meet Robt. R. Corson, Mr. Eckert, the widow of Dr. Eckert, and Mr. Oakford, in order to arrange with them the railing or fencing our burial lots. We met them at 3 P.M., and they were very accommodating. We are all gone to join fences and pay, each one, his proportion of the expenses.

Mr. Eckert wishes me to have his fenced as ours and to send him the bill. It is a beautiful place. Since Edward was buried, and just before Caroline was, Dr. Eckert was buried in his lot. The wife has been greatly disturbed and never visited the grave until today. There side by side lie our dear children and close by them lies their grandmother, all put there within a year and a few days. Who goes next and when? No one can tell.

October 18: Wednesday.

William Cresson and Tacie came this evening and spent a few hours here. They have just left in the dark and rain.

I am about to buy some Norristown lots of Walter Cooke, adjoining mine, on which to build a home for daughter Tacie. Joseph is posting, Susan writing a letter, mother sewing; little Mary is up at Norristown.

November 5: Sunday.

I have not been at Meeting today. Joseph and self practiced this afternoon, and I have done nothing but sit and read this afternoon. Susan, Bertha and Helen and their cousin Saml. M. Corson walked to Conshohocken Episcopal Church this morning, but Susan and Helen went to David Woods instead. All came home to dine. The girls, Bertha, Frannie and cousin Ida Corson come home from school every Friday afternoon and return on Monday morning.

Follen is still up at Easton, [has] quite a pleasant time of it, very little to do.

The death of Lord Palmerton, Premier of England was rec'd. here two days ago. Earl Russell takes his place.

November 12: Sunday.

On Tuesday last, November 8<sup>th</sup> [November 7], I went to the cars at Conshohocken to bring up Doctr. Robt. Rodgers' wife, who had come on from Springfield, Ohio, to pay us a visit. Robt. R. Corson and wife had come up this morning to tell of their visit. So I took them down and brought the others up. I was glad to see them. I had not seen Rodgers but once for more than 30 years. We had been roommates during our last winter at lectures. His wife I had never seen. They left us yesterday. We had a very pleasant visit from them.

November 19: Sunday.

Last Wednesday wife and self went to Philad. early in the morning, and after getting a new coat, I met Dr. Rodgers by appointment at the University. We then went to the Pa. Hospital and heard Dr. Gebhard lecture on phthisis. Afterwards heard Dr. Morton on several surgical cases. We then returned to University and heard surgeon Henry H. Smith, professor of surgery, in a number of cases. He got us to examine an obscure case of injury of shoulder joint. We also had an exhibition of the use of the laryngoscope by its author Dr. Culter,<sup>cxxviii</sup> in Doctr. Smith's private room, in the presence of only four of



us. It is a very efficient instrument and in a person who can bear its application without gagging, the vocal chords, inside the larynx and even windpipe are easily and plainly seen. Operations brot us to 22 P.M. Then after a dinner at the Continental Restaurent, we took the cars to the Naval Hospital and spent an hour with an old friend, Dr. George Maulsby, Naval Surgeon, of the Hospital, and his wife, very pleasantly. At 5 2 P.M. I was again in the cars at 9<sup>th</sup> and Green, on my way home, where I arrived at 6 1/4 P.M. After this I visited several patients with Joseph.

The day before we went to Philad. (on Tuesday), my friend Wm. H. Johnson of Bucks Co. came here to pay us a visit. He has been here ever since, and he and I have been going about visiting our schools and the Norristown schools, and yesterday spent several hours in the Institute of this township, with the Lectures. He made a number of --- [illeg.] speeches on subjects on which the teachers and myself wanted his opinion, and I delivered a short essay on The Rightward Radiation of Heat. We had quite an interesting time.

Robert R. Corson took daughter Susan to Washington last Tuesday. They have had a pleasant visit, have been to Mount Vernon and other places and [was] enlightened by her journey.

November 26: Sunday.

Mr. Johnson and self cont'd. our visits to the schools on Monday and Tuesday. On Wednesday we visited the Kindergarden School in Philad. Afterward I went to see Dr. Rodgers, and he and I went to see Mrs. Hickling, formerly Miss Hannah Woglom, with whose mother we boarded in Philad. while medical students.

My friend and patient Charles Stout died last week and will be buried today.

The children are all at home today, but Bertha, who staid with Aunt Emily, and Stacie who is at home in Norristown, and Edward and Caroline whose bodies are away but whose images are ever present, as their spirits are.

How much do we owe to the beautiful art of Photography! It has preserved to us the forms and faces of our dear children, in a way memory never could have done. We can at all times see them as they were when in life and health before us.

About two months ago Follen, who had been the Chief Clerk of the Provost Marshal at Norristown for about a year, and before that a subordinate clerk, was sent to Easton by the Provost Marshal General, to finish up the business of this district, the Marshal having been discharged (honorably) and this district and others consolidated with the Head Quarters at Easton. He has now returned, the business being closed.

December 10: Sunday.

Joseph and myself have had a pretty busy time in Practice for some time back. Follen has posted up the books since he came home. The girls, Bertha and Frannie, are at school five days in the week and Sunday and Saturday at home. Susan and Mary at home, the former teaching the latter. Mother is busy at the general management of offices, and Isaac, George, Ann and Tacie work on in their various offices. There is also a poor old lady staying with us who has no home and who is afraid she may have to go to the poor house, as great a dread to her as to poor old Mrs. [blank space] in "Our Mutual Friend" (which I have just finished reading). This poor old Irish woman has been taken in by mother who is trying to get her into a Widow's Asylum in Philad. It will cost

\$70.00 to get her in, but mother thinks she can do it, and so as she is waiting for the place, she keeps her here, where she has been several weeks. She is much in the way, but she is a good gentle old woman and I am pleased to s[ee] “mother” striving to make her comfortable in her old age, and hope she will succeed in doing so. It is hard to be old and poor, and without friends to help. A childless, friendless old man or old woman is a pitiable object.

Been practicing since dinner until just now (4 P.M.). Finished reading *Our Mutual Friend* by Chas. Dickens today.

Congress convened last week, and went at once to work. The Republicans are in great majority and have it all their own way.

My ore rent for last month came to about \$150.00

December 22: Friday.

Next Monday will be Christmas. Mary, dear little thing went to Philad. this morning with her cousins Helen, Marcus, Saml., &c., and this morning she returned with them, and Bertha came along from school. Frannie staid at her Uncle Charles Bacon's. Yesterday, mother, myself and Follen went to Maggie Foulke's funeral, now Maggie Atkinson. She had been married but a year, and died after a few hours sickness.

Joseph is doing the bulk of the practice now.

Congress has set about the work of securing the rights of freed men, and crushing out the system and spirit of slavery in real earnest.

The Constitutional Amendment abolishing slavery, and prohibiting its existence, declared to be part of the fundamental law, by proclamation of the Secretary of State.

Follen has posted up all my accounts and now he and I are putting the charges to them and making out bills. I also practice.

As we approach Christmas a sadness comes over me. It has been the time for all of our family coming together and interchanging presents. Every one came in for a share and it seemed as if we came closer to each other than at other times. If any one was absent he or she was remembered, provided for, and in letter wished a “happy Christmas.” But now every thought of it is mingled with the sad thoughts of our bereavement, of our loved ones now to be with us no more. But I trust we will long cherish their memories, and endeavor to imitate their virtues. Edward, Caroline and their grandmother all taken from us in little more than one year. After Edward's death, Dr. Eckert then in full health was struck down, and was buried in the lot next ours. Then came grandmother, then in a few months Carrie. Almost two months after her death, mother and myself and Robt. R. Corson met Dr. Eckert's widow and her cousin, Mr. Geo. Eckert, to arrange with them about the fencing of the lots. They desired me to have theirs enclosed as ours is. Two weeks ago I rec'd. a letter from Mr. E., asking me how soon it would be finished. I wrote him next day. The following day I saw a notice of his death. So it goes. Who is to go from our house this coming year we know not. Mr. Eckert died I am told very suddenly from disease of Heart. I had a spell of palpitation today, have had several the past year. I am certainly the most likely one to fall, and yet we know not who it may be. We can only live our best and have the result. That I may live a life of purity and honor, doing unto others as I would that they should do unto me, shall be my endeavor. Several of my patients, aged people, and excellent friends have

died lately, Charles Stout, old Mrs. Heydrich, and John Fulmer, and all with disease of Heart, though Mrs. Heydrich [suffered from] Fungus Hematodes.

**Editor's note:** At this point in the diary, Corson pasted four full pages of "The Press." The Monday, January 1, 1866 issue (Vol. 9, No. 138) featured a summary of the previous year's events as THE WORLD'S HISTORY DURING THE PAST YEAR – A Complete Record of the Battles, Sieges, Military Movements, Deaths of Prominent Persons, Changes in Governments, Startling Events, &c., &c. January (Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>) starts with The U.S. sloop-of-war San Jacinto, while chasing a blockade runner off No Name Key, runs on a reef and is wrecked. December (Saturday 30<sup>th</sup>) ends with "EDWARD B. KETCHUM, the New York forger, sentenced to four years and six months imprisonment."

## 1866

January 1: Monday.

Another year has come upon us. The old one, which we entered a year ago with high hope[s] that all would go well with us, brought us sorrow, and reduced our number. We are indeed a broken household. The eldest son and the eldest daughter carried from us within two short years, and with them too their loving and beloved grandmother. With all the trials, sorrows, afflictions, as well as the comforts which it brot the old year has left us. Of the new what shall we reasonably expect. That like all its predecessors it will distribute its cares and toils, its joys and comforts often where and when least expected. That millions now happy will have sorrow, and other millions who have sorrow and suffering will become joyous and happy. The poor will oft become rich, the wealthy poor, the saint a sinner and the sinner a saint. Even the wisest cannot foretell what the lot of any will be. So we can do no better than seek to do right, and leave the result to the disposal of the Almighty Power which rules the destinies of mortals. But it is sad to so see the Old Year to depart, like a dead friend to be seen no more. His companionship some of us will long remember. We were together in scenes which we never can forget and 1865 will therefore be often in our minds. I have just read a short poem in the Norristown Herald & Republican, on "the New Year," which seems so appropriate and beautiful that I will paste it here.<sup>cxxix</sup> I do not know that I have ever read anything on the subject which has pleased me so much.

Bertha and Frannie have been home, from school, ever since the Friday preceding Christmas, but they will leave us again tomorrow.

Susan has been in the city since the Friday before Christmas and will not be home till Monday next.

January 5: Friday.

I have been practicing, making out bills with Jos. and Follen, also visiting the schools, &c, since New Years. Bertha and Frannie have returned from school, and they and Joseph, Follen and little Mary are now, 8 P.M., out at Aunt Martha's witnessing some "private Theatricals," which they have gotten up.

Mother is sewing and I have been looking over an old lecture on cosmogony, to see if it will do to read to the Teachers Institute tomorrow.

I rec'd. some agricultural journals from the chief of the Agricultural Bureau, containing an account of the Cattle Disease in England. We have the cattle disease among the cows in this region and have had it for more than a year. I am now looking into its nature somewhat, and have attempted to prescribe for two sick ones at Wm. Wills. I am giving them 2 grs. Corrosive Sublimate<sup>cxxx</sup> 3 times every day.

January 7: Sunday.

Some account of the Cattle Disease which has prevailed in this county during a few years past, by Hiram Corson, MD:

I think it must be some seven or eight years since the first cases occurred here. Charles Jones and Michael O'Brien at Conshohocken had the first cases of it that I saw. During the last year or two a great many farmers near to us have suffered great loss. Joseph Ambler on John Shoemaker's place, lost 16 the past year, 1865. Reuben Lukens and his tenant lost [empty space, no number given]; Maccullop [McCollough], the first farmer next Reuben Lukens, lost [empty space]; Reuben Davis, next to McCullopp [McCollough] and adjoining Ambler, also lost [empty space]. William Wills, almost adjoining Reuben Davis lost and had in all [empty space] sick. Being at W. Wills a few days ago, he told me about his cattle, and said that they had sold several, while they were sick, to the Jew-Cow-Huckster, who take them to Philad. and sell them to the people who make Bologna Sausages. I was horrified by this statement and immediately wrote to Dr. Jewell of Philad. asking him what ought to be done in relation to so infamous a practice. Next day I went to see Wills' cows, and found two quite sick; they still gave milk, having only been sick a day or two, and they were putting the milk, I think, with the other good milk, to go to the city. They have a milk-dairy. The only symptoms of ill-health were a refusal to eat, falling away in milk and flesh, a very slight cough which is accompanied in a few days by rude respiration.<sup>cxxxi</sup> I prescribed 2 grs. Corrosive Sublimate, every 8 hours for each of these two cows. Today four days after, I visited them. One of them is much better, was out in the yard, eating of corn-fodder. The other was also standing in the yard, was utterly destitute of milk (though almost a fresh cow much reduced in bulk of body, and breathing with more than natural effort, but not more frequently I think. They each took 10 powders, finishing them 30 hours since. I have directed the most poorly cow to have more given to her. As I looked at the cows in the yard, I saw one whose attitude and appearance induced me to ask if she been sick. Mr. Wills replied, no! But at that moment she coughed, and its peculiar dry husky sound induced him to say, she is getting it.

He told me that they paid only a few days since 140 Dols. for the cows and 87 Dols. for a third one. They have not a cow in the yard that did not cost them at those rates, and they are now determined to sell out, the whole stock. It is really a fearful disease to a farmer. Last week I wrote to Mr. Newton, chief of the Agricultural Bureau, for his monthly reports containing accounts of the Rinderpest or Cattle-disease of Europe and he furnished them to me. From them I learn that sheep and cows are equally liable to be affected by the disease in England, Belgium, &c.; that as yet they have not discovered any cure; that an animal is not liable to a second attack; that the disease originates only on the great Russian Steppes, but that an animal diseased, being carried to any region will communicate it to others, and thence it will spread. Homeopathy most successful in England they say.

The treatment in our county is my empirical. Bleeding has not been much resorted to. Caleb Hydrick [Heydick] informs me that a man requested him to come and bleed six sick cattle. He went and bled five of them and would not bleed the other because he wished to see the results. The five died, the other got well.

Amos Corson had two cows with the disease. He gave each of them a tablespoonful of Niter,<sup>cxxxii</sup> flowers of sulphur and black pepper, made into a paste ball and pushed down the throat. Both recovered.

January 9: Tuesday.

Mother and her sisters, Robt. R. Corson and myself all met at F. Bacon's to give a Deed to Dr. James Tyson, for the lot and house, formerly Aunt Susan's, and also to settle up their mother's estate. Mother Foulke has been a widow for about 14 years, and had the Int[erest] of 5,000 Dols. and the rent of the Aunt Susan house, 200 Dols. more. So her income was about \$ 500 per year or nearly \$ 10 per week and yet when she died, her son Jesse who administered to her estate, said she had not a cent of money and presented the bills for her funeral, &c., &c. for the children to pay. During her life, her money was to come from him and precious little she ever got. I am well satisfied that he owes her more than 2,000 Dols. I am sure that she could have lived much better and more comfortable and saved in the 14 years at least 4,200 Dols. For the last 3 months she was very sick and was with us and waited on by us, and yet not a single dollar was offered us as remuneration. Today when we were settling and he had presented his bills, Robt. R. Corson, at my instance, asked him if he did not think Dr. Corson and his wife ought not to be paid for their services? If it was not more reasonable that they should be paid, than he who did not even board her? He also asked him if mother Foulke had no money left? &c., &c. He could show no accept, but "guessed they were about balanced." After some talk it was proposed by Frank Bacon that we be paid \$81.22, a balance after paying each heir 40 Dols. Just think of this, he with thousands of Dollars in his hands, belonging to her, and yet the children [are] called upon to give up \$ 10 a piece, or nearly that, of the small sum coming to each one, to pay for her care on her death-bed. I am not willing to take this money from the children. I will take it gladly although it would be no compensation for the same services rendered to a stranger, if it shall come off of Jesse Foulke.

Follen and self drove over to the Barracks to see the men taking down the barn I bought for \$ 100.00 about a week ago at a public sale of all the Barracks. Thirty-four immense buildings only brot about \$ 8,000 which cost about 120,000 Dollars. I gave only \$ 100 for a stable 80 feet by 30, 15 feet high, well boarded all round, shingle roof, large doors at each end that carriages might drive in. The whole base planked, also a lean-to 80 feet long 14 feet wide roof first of board, then that covered with shingles. There is an immense am't. of lumber in it. The cost to the government was \$ 1,600. I will bring it home and use it as needed in building.

January 10: Wednesday.

Had conversations with some of the neighbors and find that the selling of sick cows has been carried on much longer and more extensively than I had known. James Huston sold quite a number a year or more ago. They also used the milk and made butter of it, as long as they would give any.

Henry Coler also, a year or two ago, sold his cows to the butchers.

January 14: Sunday.

Two days since I visited McCullopp's [McCollough] farm. He lost two cows a couple of weeks since, four others are recovering, and two are very sick now. I visited them again today with Dr. Lewis Read, also visited a cow on Dulls place, right in front of our house, also Wills' cows. One of the two I have prescribed for, is quite well, only took 20 grs. of Corrosive Sublimate. The other took 40, 6 grs. per day, two days ago. She eats a little, and having finished the powders, the elder Wills gave her a large dose of arsenic. I think that may have harmed her.

Wills has given his cows, the herd of twenty-five, about 35 pounds of salts, Epsom Salts, to keep them loose. But it does not seem to have succeeded, for even today I find another or two getting sick. McCullopp's [McCollough] treatment consists in purging well with Epsom [salt] as soon as sick, and repeating [it] in a few days.

January 15: Monday.

Robert Corson came up while we were at dinner today and wanted me to go to Philad. to see sister Susan Foulke, who had come from her new boarding home greatly dissatisfied with her room, which is downstairs and too lonely at night for her. I went down and brought her up to stay a couple of weeks. She pays \$ 10.00 per week board, and does not an earthly thing, and is of course unhappy. How much better it would be if she would get plain boarding for half that sum and live with a nice plain family, with whom she could mingle. I was, besides practicing today, to see a cow dead of the cattle-plague. I examined somewhat her lungs and heart, &c.

Yesterday with Doctor Read, my nephew, I re-examined McCullopp's [McCollough], Wills' and Thompson's cows, by auscultation and percussion, and I am well satisfied that this disease is of the lungs. I almost invariably found entire want of breathing in a great part of one lung with increased respiration in the other, universal flatness on percussion, on one side, and exalted resonance on the other in some parts.

January 16: Tuesday.

Much snow last night. Follen and self went to McCullopp's [McCollough] today in the sleigh to see the cattle. They had just dragged a dead one to the back field; and we rode out there and helped him to open her. I found intense congestion of the lungs, no congestion or inflam[mation] of costal pleura. It was so cold out in the field with the snow ankle deep, and nothing but an old butcher- knife, cleaver and axe that could not go into a nice examination, but I brought away a piece of the lung, one of the liver, and another of the heart. I will sent them to the city tomorrow to be put under the magnifying glass, to ascertain if possible, the nature of the changes they have undergone.

January 17: Wednesday.

Seen a cow dead of the Cattle-plague. I examined somewhat her lungs and heart, &c. After practicing till 3 P.M. I went to Philad., taking with me parts of the lung, liver and heart of the cow examined yesterday, and left them with Dr. Tyson, to be put under the microscope by him.

After leaving them, I went to the League Room with Robt. R. Corson, & took supper and went from there to the lecture on the "World We Live In" by Dr. Robt. Rodgers, Professor of Chemistry. It was in the "Academy of Music." An immense audience. It was to show the "Correlation of Forces" – or to explain- to prove that force is never lost – that light, heat, sound, electricity, magnetism, galvanism, are only different forms of force.

January 18: Thursday.

Joseph and myself were present at an examination of a dead cow. Alan Wills did the dissection for us. We found evidence [of the] most violent inflammation all over the pleura of [the] left side and left lung, the side which had no respiration in it for several days before death. The lung itself was completely solidified, wholly impervious to air. [The] liver was a dark red and weak of texture, [the] spleen dark initially, with [an] abundance of black spots over the surface, meat of the thigh very dark, heart cavities filled with dark, black, soft clots of blood; cellular membrane and fat of the body yellow, the operator thought them of a healthy animal. There was, I think, half a gallon perhaps of water in [the] left pleural cavity; bladder filled well, filled with natural looking urine.

January 19: Friday.

Joseph went to Philad. and took to Dr. Tyson a piece of the liver, lungs, meat, spleen and heart of the cow examined yesterday. He also brot home the Bond for \$ 1,000, bought for [the] mother of Jay Cooke a few days ago. I practiced pretty hard all day.

January 20: Saturday.

Practiced till 10 A.M., then took Miss Peck, Miss Keys and Miss Sallie Lukens to the Teachers Institute at Barren Hill school house. Lectured on cosmogony . Rev. Waters and Mr. Percy Boyer were admitted as member of the Institute.

January 25:

Today I rec'd. [a] letter from Dr. Charles Heysham, saying that four cattle died on one farm in Delaware County. They had been bought at the Drove yard. One soon sickened, and very soon all the rest, and all died. One other of his cows also took the disease and died. No others took ill. The post mortem appearances were those of pleurisy and pneumonia of one side, also large effusion in [the] cavity of [the] pleura. Yesterday, very snowy. I went to James Coulston's to see his cow. I prescribed for her Laud., (ounce 1); tinct. veratrina 20 drops, and repeat in 4 hours. I find her improved today. There is yet no consolidation of lung, but she has a dry cough, milk entirely dried up, although only two days sick. Wont it at all. In addition to the medicine I had prescribed a very extensive rubbing with Turpentine, which was done, and perhaps aided in relieving her.

I continue the treatment, one tablespoon Laud., and 20 drops veratrina 3 time a day. He has lost three cattle, and two got well. The first cow taken sick was a cow that had been on the place for 8 years - died in two weeks, greatly oppressed during the last few days. Several of his cows are getting sick now, he thinks. A horse doctor from Chestnut Hill treated one with nitric acid, tablespoonful to 2 quarts of water. The first

dose burnt her so badly before she got it all down that she became unmanageable. She seemed to suffer greatly and soon swelled up and died.

January 27: Saturday.

Visited the Coulston cattle. Found the first one rather better, another large black one is now quite sick. The first one was taken last Sunday. His [dose] on Tuesday.

4. Laud	ounces xvi	} D-----	glassful 3 times a day
Tinct. Veratrina	ounce i	} In 1 quart Bran Tea.	
Tinct. ---- muriates	ounces iv	}	

Mother went up to Tacie's several days ago to stay with her until she is confined. On Friday night she came down and staid all night, hearing that I was not well. On Thursday night and Friday I had great disturbances of the heart. I lost on[e] beat about every ten. But on Saturday morning it was all gone. Joseph and myself have done a great deal of practice. Still prosecuting my investigations of the cattle disease. Aunt Susan, as the children call her, is here, but she is so stupid, does almost nothing, says nothing of any consequence, eats and sleeps, and grows fatter and stupider every day. Susan and myself are teaching little Mary daily, I do the arithmetic and she the reading and spelling.

January 28: Sunday.

Visited two cows, examined lungs and think the 1<sup>st</sup> better, the second rather heavily affected on the left lung near [the] back. Pulse of No.1 - 78; of No.2 - 80, of one healthy cow 50, of another 52; both sick cows eat a little wheat bran and drink water, and both continue to give some milk. At first James told me the milk dried up in a single day. It is not so, they give considerable milk.

January 29: Monday.

Mary and self went out in the sleigh to a number of places this afternoon, and when about a mile from home, on my return, I got a palpitation of the heart. It passed off soon after I laid down at home.

January 30: Tuesday.

Visited James Coulston's cows today – both better. Now taken steadily of the mixture, two tablespoonsful 3 times a day. Since Saturday, been very well rubbed with turpentine, and one of them well blistered on the side. Their respiration is 26 or 28 per minute while the well cows only breath 13 to 15 per minute. Treat[ment] continued.

From Coulston's I went to McCullopp's [McCollough]. One cow getting sick. Pulse 70, respiration not observed on account of darkness. Horns quite warm while other cows were cool. He says he can tell by the heat of the horns as soon as he takes hold of them. They are always hotter than those of healthy cattle.

He fed the milk of his sick cows heretofore to his pigs and hogs. None of them got sick. In McCullopp's [McCollough] cow today, there was a blowing inspiration, followed by a very short, sudden expiration.



January 31: Wednesday.

Went to see McCullopp's [McCollough] cow, pulse 72, respiration 32. N. Dutton attempted to bleed her for me, but did not succeed. He has had her on a starving treatment for several days, five days. Her horns are unnaturally warm. Last night he rubbed her with turpentine as I had directed and put a cover on her. He is now to give her of my Laud., veratrina and Tinct. Ferri mixture, two tablespoonsful every day three times as Coulton's have done.

February 1: Thursday.

I did not see McCullopp's [McCollough] cow till 4 P.M. She took one dose of the med. last evening. This morning she was found to have miscarried of a 7 mo. grown calf and he supposed the med. had done it. He did not give any more. She is in about the same state as yesterday, and now he will give the med. regularly. Her breathing is 40 times per minute today.

February 2: Friday.

Saw her at 4 P.M. Much better today, breaths 24 times in a minute, pulse 68. Eats, has much milk.

Saml. Streeper, some time back got a cow of Ambler who lost sixteen last summer. Now five of his are sick. His brother-in-law, Henry Coler, who lives near him, had the disease among his cattle a year or more ago. [He] lost some and sold the rest. Now I hear he has two more sick.

I was at Alan Wills' yesterday. He has one sick and he sold two since I was there a week ago.

I was yesterday at Coulston's. His cows are better. Horns cooler, pulse 66, respirations 24. The two had taken nearly 1 pint [of the] Laud ounce i, tinct. Vat. Viride ounce iii, tinct. Muriate of iron.

February 3: Saturday.

Sam Coulston's cows, they are well. Eat well, give much milk, breath well, &c. Did not see McCullopp's [McCollough]. In December No. for 1865 in a report of the disease in England, in which the failure of the homeopathic treatment is spoken of, a cow is reported as convalescent, though the pulse was still at 84, and the breathing at 32. This is the only notice I have seen of a single symptom of that affection, in all that I have read.

February 10: Saturday.

Rec'd. the September Journal on agriculture from the Agricultural Bureau at Washington, sent by Newton. An interesting article in it on Rinderpest.

February 11: Sunday.

After two days of considerable suffering, our first married daughter Tacie, wife of William L. Cresson, presented us with a little grand daughter, which she and her husband called after dear Caroline, Caroline Corson Cresson. It was born at Aunt Ann Corson's, corner of Swede and Marshal Streets – S. E. corner. Born 3 P.M.

Asked to see a cow of Walton Freas, quite sick, prescribed my treatment.

February 12: Monday.

Reported the disease & my treatment at the Agricultural Society. They at once resolved to petition the Legislature to enact laws to prevent the spread of the disease, by making it penal to sell or remove diseased cattle from a herd diseased. It is very contagious, from cow to cow, no other way. Therefore, if we prevent those unaffected from being approached by diseased ones, we will soon be done with it.

February 13: Tuesday.

Sent for to advise in relation to two cows of Harry Hyburner. Both very sick. Directed my treatment.

February 14: Wednesday.

Sent for to advise for another cow of Walton Freas. Quite ill. The first one is getting better.

February 15: Thursday.

Have been up several times to see Tacie. She is doing well. The children have all been up, and they are all greatly pleased with it and with the name. Indeed, its name seems to clothe it with sanctity in my eyes. It seems as though our dear deceased Carrie was with us again, as if she was beginning life with us again, and as if every fond feeling which I have for this child is rendered to her. Oh! How I will be disappointed if she should grow up without the delicate sensitiveness of [Caroline]. Have not seen Hyburner's cows these two days. As I am attending W. Freas, I stop and see his cows every day. The first one is eating finely and giving more milk. The other very poorly today. Treat[ment] cont'd.

Yesterday morning while at Conshohocken, I heard that Dr. Joseph Levering was shot dead the evening before while going from his stable to his house. We have not yet learned particulars.

Last Monday I made a report before our Agricultural Society on the subject of pleuro-pneumonia, or Cattle disease, gave its rise, progress & mortality in this region since 1860. It interested the members greatly, and a resolution was passed, directing the Officers to petition the Legislature to pass laws to prevent the sale or removal of any cow from out of a diseased herd. A vote of thanks was tendered me. I have been asked to prescribe for 4 more cows since that meeting.

Wife has not been well for a few days. Sam'l has been spending the evening here with Joseph and Follen. While they talked and Susan was drawing, I wrote and read. They have now all gone to bed but myself, and it is intensely cold and very windy, though two days ago it was very warm.

February 19: Monday.

One of Freas' cows well, the other quite bad. Yesterday Sarah Dull sent for me to prescribe for her cow. Hyburner's cows much better.

Now it is a singular fact, that Hyburner's cows and Dull's cow, are also affected from the Wills herd which was affected from Ambler's herd, which was affected by a cow bought at W. Ambler's vendue. It was in this way. Alan Wills sold to Ian Divinney (a Cow-huckster) one of his cows, while the disease was in his stable, and

probably he had seen some slight symptoms of the disease in her. Divinney in a few days sold her to Hiram Dull, who after keeping her two weeks, kills her for beef. He takes his beef to Philad. Market. During the time that she was at Dull's, Harry Hyburner took one of his cows to Dull's Bull. She was there but an hour or two. In 2 weeks after he found her sick. She is one of those I treated above. A week after her illness began, another showed some sign of the disease, but was not very bad. Nearly the same time with Hyburner's, one of Dull's cows was found to be sick. I saw her last Saturday and had her rubbed & gave her medicine like the others. On Sunday morning, 18<sup>th</sup>, Hiram Dull, being told about a great Dutch Doctor, went to Phila. after him. He called here as he went back, and told me that he was coming up in the afternoon. As I knew it was the policy of this man to make owners believe that all their cows are sick or will be sick, if they do not give them his medicine, at four Dollars per head, I urged him not to be duped. But I have just been told that he persuaded him to take Med. for all of them, 16 in number = \$64.

February 20: Tuesday.

Last night I attended a lecture [by] Professor Robert Rodgers on light, heat, electricity, &c, at the Academy of Music. Took some milk of a diseased cow to Doctor James Tyson of Phila. to be analyzed. Reached home at 1 A.M.

Today I practiced 'till noon., then Dr. John K. Reid came here to go with me & see sick cattle. He had never seen any. We visited Joseph Inos', which was very bad, and one still in the yard, but with a pulse of about 80 and breathing 40 in a minute. The other two had breathing of 44 and pulse nearly 100. Then we went to Hyburner's, to see one that I had treated and got well nearly, 'till she calved a few nights ago, since which she has been poorly. The calf is fine.

March 20: Tuesday.

It is now more than a month since I last wrote, but it must not be thought that I have been idle all this time. On the contrary, I have been greatly engaged. After returning from the meeting spoken of above I wrote, before going to bed, to my friend Dr. Worthington a long letter giving him an account of the Cattle Disease, with many facts to prove the contagious character of the disease, so that he would have them, upon which to ask for legislation. It was sent next morning and rec'd. by Senator Worthington, at Harrisburg, next evening. He immediately called several Senators and Representatives and the Secretary of State together, and read the letter to them, and they concluded, as the Resolution of the Agricultural Society had not arrived, and as the matter was to them one of great importance, and as they were just ready to adjourn for 60 days, they concluded to have the letter read in the Senate. This was done next morning, and a committee of five Senators appointed to report on the subject. The next day, a report of those proceedings was published in the papers. Great excitement was immediately produced in Philad., on account of the statement which I made that the milk and meat of the diseased cattle were sold in the market. They at once refused to buy milk from Montgy. Co. farmers. Many were afraid to buy beef at all. The farmers then became frightened for fear their milk dairy would be broken up, and as a consequence I was treated to some hard names. A few days after, I met Dr. Worthington by appointment, at the Continental Hotel in Philad. I also met there Robt. R. Corson, Surgeon & George Maulsby of the U.S. Navy. We all

went to the Board of Health and had an interview with some of the members. They are an old foggy set, and did not know what to ask of the legislature.

About the first of this month we held another meeting of the Agricultural Society. I addressed them at some length on the subject. We drew up a Resolution indicating what laws we desired to have passed, and directed them to be forwarded to Harrisburg. A few days after this, The Society for the Promoting of Agriculture, in Philad., met and passed resolutions that they had no evidence that any more disease existed this year in Montgy. Co. than has existed for several years. This was intended to allay the fears of the city people, but was wholly unnecessary as it had pretty well subsided. It is amazing that such men would be willing thus to misrepresent in order to effect their objectives.

April 16: Monday.

Since I last wrote Saml. Streeper, whose cows Dr. Black insured (24 of them for 96 Dollars), have been getting sick again & then have died recently, five in all. I examined one last Friday, and four more are quite ill. Joseph Freas has now three quite ill. He has lost one by death and one he sold for fear it would die.

Jos. Ambler, who lost 16 last summer, got on some new cows last fall, and now they are affected - two, if not more, died a month ago. I have not been there since.

Reuben Lukens who lost 7 before last August had one to die a month ago, and today he has another quite ill since last Tuesday.

James Coulston has had six to die, nine recovered, and 4 have not yet had it. 2 he sold.

George Cressman lost 4, & two he sold while sick & all the rest for fear they would get sick. He kept only one cow all winter.

May 1: Tuesday.

The cattle on two or three farms, James Coulston's who had 19 out of 23 sick, seven of which died & two were sold for fear they would die. Joseph Freas, who has now had ten sick, four of which died, one was sold and some got well.

Samuel Streeper had all his cows doctored by "old Black," whom he paid 96 Dollars for medicine to prevent them from getting sick. They have since been dying rapidly. I had one of them opened a short time since. I think he has already lost six.

Since I wrote, many things have happened. Our President has gone over to the Copperheads and Congress has passed the "Civil Rights Bill" by a 2/3 majority over his veto. "The Freedman's Bureau Bill" they would not pass in that way. Republican members of Congress have a busy time of it this winter. The President has made several speeches in which he has openly abused Sumner, Forney & Thaddeus Stevens, by name. We lost much by the death of Lincoln.

I attended the wedding of Edward Livezey in Philad. About a month since.

Joseph and I have done a great deal of practice for several months, and have had a great deal of money. I think we have collected nearly \$ 2000 already this year.

Robt. R. Corson & myself two weeks ago bought 4 ½ acres of land at Chestnut Hill for \$2300. Bought it for speculation. I have been paying considerable attention to the Public Schools this winter and there has been decided improvement.

May 5: Saturday.

John Hare on Reuben Davis's upper farm where the first case of disease occurred has lost a cow within a week, and another they think will die in a few days, and two, Abram Saylor told me today, they drove away to sell, "in a most miserable condition."

Saylor stopped me to know what the law authorizes us to do, for the road cows are going up by Hare's, and he thinks the disease will spread in that way.

May 7: Monday.

Follen has been reading Law for a couple of months under direction of William Rawle, Esq., at home [and] is now getting ready to go to Philad. in the 8 o'clock train to study in the office. He will go down and up every day. The girls Bertha & Frannie, who have been going to school in Philad., will also go with him this morning. This is a beautiful spring morning, and today I am to present to the Agricultural Society, memoirs of two of its members, Charles Stout & David Getty, and on Wednesday evening I am to lecture at Conshohocken on Temperance as a preventive against disease.

The grass and grain are beautifully green, the morning mild & warm and bright with sunlight. Nature is renewing herself after the storms & frosts of winter. So if we have gloomy feelings, times of darkness and doubt, let us hope that they will be dispelled and all will be bright and happy again. If we are only true to right & honor, all will, in the end, [be] leading to our happiness. So let me consecrate myself anew this fine morning to a conscientious discharge of every duty.

Little Mary is cleaning away "the breakfast things." Follen in the arm chair, feeling badly about the enterprise on which he is about to embark. It is truly an enterprise which will be forever the moulding of his destiny. The girls are just coming down stairs to start to Philad. to school, so in a few minutes we will all be threading different paths, but to meet again, I hope on Friday afternoon, when the girls will return again.

May 8: Tuesday.

I do not know that I feel any regret for anything done yesterday. Joseph and self practiced till noon pretty faithfully. Afternoon I went to a meeting of the Agricultural Society and read two memoirs, one of David Getty, the other of Charles Stout.

Returned by way of Franklin Whittells [Whitall's] & spent an hour, then called to see Charley Shepherd & wife (both sick). After dark visited more patients, & assisted at the birth of one of David Bickings' children.

Follen did not get to see Mr. Rawle & now thinks he will not go to his office until the warm weather goes over. Old color'd Maria, a poetess, came here today. It is several years since her former visit. She gave us an account in the evening of a difficulty she had in getting liberty to remain over night at a house about a mile distant, two nights since. It is amazing how prejudiced the majority of the people are against the blacks. She is a very nice, cleanly person, full of mimicry and quaintness, and composes some pleasant verses. She will stay a few days with us I suppose. It is very hard for such poor color'd people to secure a pleasant home for old age, and I suppose she will eventually have to go to the Poor House.

May 14: Monday.

Have not been idle since last writing. Have done much practice. Tacie and Will Cresson, her husband, are staying with us a few days. They have their little daughter Caroline with them, now 3 months old. I love her for her name, if for nothing else. Young William Henry Cresson was here yesterday. He will start tonight for Denver City, the great gold city. I want him to look out some Territory for me.

Bertha has gotten well of her Bunion, but has had [a] headache for a whole week at school. I think she had better not go today. It is now coming to the time of the year which has been so fatal to our family for two years past, and I feel a dread of it. I believe we never securely pass a week, seldom a day, that we do not do some things we afterwards regret. It is so with me.

It is now six o'clock. None of the family down but myself & the two hired girls.

May 18: Friday.

11 P.M. All gone to bed for an hour or two but myself. I have just finished my third article to the "Independent" on cholera, its prevention, &c. For several days I have been very busy with some patients from 7 to 10 miles away. I have not been so watchful over all my movements, my thoughts, &c., as I should have been, I fear. I have sincerely thought of any thing but my business, so busy have I been. I must try to write every day hereafter. It is easy to neglect things from pure laziness. I have now been reading and writing for several hours and do not feel the least weariness, and yet if I had not gotten at it I would have felt so languid & weary that I would have thought I could not possibly do it.

June 10: Sunday.

10 P.M. At last writing May 18<sup>th</sup>, I thought I would write in my journal every day, and yet I have neglected it, three weeks. So it is. We readily neglect. Mrs. Corson and myself are preparing to go to Wilkesbarre [sic], to the State Medical Society on Wednesday next. We will leave here on Tuesday morning.

The Corporators and Faculty of the Female Medical College of Pa. desire me to obtain from the Society an acknowledgement of equal rank for their college with any other. I had an interview with Miss Ann M. Preston, M.D., one of the Professors, and am to receive from her several documents to use if necessary to show the workings & condition of the College.

I expect the Society will frown on my efforts, but I will try it.

Joseph & self have done much practice lately. This is Sunday night. Don't feel well in relation to spending my time today. Robert and wife have been here all day. Ellwood was down, and he says Uncle William has a very bad cough.

Last night I dreamed that I saw him going along the street, when he did not see me, and he seemed thin and very much boned.. He looked like "Uncle George" did in the last year of his life. I have feared for a long time he would have consumption, his cough was so bad.

June 13: Wednesday.

Morning. Mother and myself found ourselves at Wilkesbarre [sic]. We left home the morning before (Tuesday morning) and taking the Cars at Wissahickon Station

on the North Pa. R. Road, arrived here at 5 P.M. Dr. Evans & wife & several medical men of Philad. were present in the Cars.

Next morning (Wednesday) I hired a carriage & took Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Traill Green & Mrs. Corson, up the Valley of the Wyoming, several miles, to the Monument, & other spots of interest. At 11 o'clock the State Medical Society began its session. I introduced certain resolutions of the Montgomery County Med. Society, with which I have been charged, which were referred to a committee, with instructions to report resolutions for the action of the State Society, myself, Drs. Green & Carpenter to be that committee. Next I introduced the subject of the Female Medical College. Had a petition from the Corporators, and letters from distinguished persons. While reading a letter from the late eminent Dr. Darlington, I was called to order by Dr. Mayburry of Philad., but the President allowed me to proceed. Great excitement was produced by the opposition, but I was highly gratified to find several physicians ranging themselves by my side. (I had previously taken pains to enlighten them on the subject). The subject was cont'd. for the evening meeting, and at 10 P.M., we took the vote on a resolution of mine, asking "that the resolution of the Society passed in 1860, to refuse consultation or recognition of the Female Med. Practitioners, be rescinded." To rescind 23, against it 27. This was a glorious gain. There has been so much scorn of the Female Movement that I did not suppose we would succeed so well. Immediately Dr. Mower [Mowry]<sup>cxxxiii</sup> of Pittsburgh moved, That it is not a violation of Medical Etiquette to consult with Female Practitioners or the Professors of Female Colleges. This could have been readily passed next day, but to give all a chance to be heard on the subject it was proposed to refer it to the County Societies for their action before [the] next meeting.

It was an interesting meeting. On Thursday evening 15<sup>th</sup> [correct date is 14<sup>th</sup>] we went to Scranton by invitation of Dr. Ladd & wife, with whom we staid until Saturday morning 17<sup>th</sup> [16<sup>th</sup>]. We had a very pleasant time there. We met besides Mrs. Ladd, three of Mr. James Brooks children, sisters [and] brothers of Mrs. Ladd, and also her aunt, all old friends. Saturday morning at 8 o'clock we took leave of those friends and started by rail for Rochester, N. York. Arrived at Rochester at 9:30 P.M. and went in a carriage to Dr. Dolley's house, No. 30 East Avenue. His wife, my niece, was ready to receive us, as also was Dr. Dolley. Here we staid till Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> [19<sup>th</sup>], when sister Mary Adamson, & my niece Mary Roberts, daughter of my sister Sarah Read, arrived. Next morning we took Mary Roberts with us to the Falls of Niagara, 80 miles, got there by 9:30 A.[M.]. Took a carriage and rode to all places of interest, dined at the Cataract House at 2 P.M., then cont. our ride till 5 P.M., when we left for Rochester, where we arrived at 8 P.M.

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> [21<sup>st</sup>] Left our friends at Rochester about 10 A.M. on the Cars for Albany where we arrived at dusk and put up at the Delaware House.

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> [22<sup>nd</sup>]. At 5 A.M. left for New York by the Hudson River Rail Road. Had a most pleasant ride and a charming view of the river scenery. At 10 ½ were in N. York. Left there by Camden & Amboy R. Road at noon, and reached home at 6 ½ P.M. Found all had gone on well.

July 8: Sunday.

Today when little daughter Mary came home from Meeting she told us Uncle Adam's son in the West was dead. As he had two sons there, we did not know which.

So in the evening we went up to his house and learned that they had a telegram, that Dr. Joseph was the one. They know nothing of the particulars.

July 14: Saturday.

Joseph returned night before last from a visit of a couple of days to Bucks County, to Uncle Charles Foulke and Uncle Joshua Corson, who is now 86 years of age. Today is the day of [the] meeting of the Montgomery Co. Med. Soc., which I must attend. On the preceding leaf is the religious belief of the Poet Whittier.<sup>cxxxiv</sup> Christianity is a life rather than a belief. From this date I hope so to regard [it].

It is yet the early morning, and I am here alone in the office, resolving to practice in accordance with the religious views of Whittier. I wish I could go on innocently & happily like that man. How placid and happy he must be. My temper and nature are different, and I might say my early education. My business too has been one of conflict, but much may be done by a manly effort.

July 20: Friday.

This day one year ago dear Caroline left us. Dear child she is at rest and at peace. To her it is no loss. To us it is irreparable. She and her dear brother Edward are close to each other and wait to be joined by the rest of us. It will come soon or late. Oh! What trials they might have had to hear if they had been left here. I see so much of the sufferings of many whose prospects were so very bright. Tacie's little Carrie is growing finely and as her mother calls her name it brings up the old happy times, when they were children, as well as the loss of the dear ones.

I am about building a house at Norristown for Tacie. I was up there today surveying the lot. I have had two of the lots for many years; they cost me about \$ 250.00. The interest would make them \$250 more now. I bought this year of Walter Cooke a lot adjoining for \$100 and of Thomas Scattergood on the other side for \$125, making in all \$725. Material of all kinds are very dear. Labor is excessively high, \$ 3.00 per day for carpenters & masons. It will cost me greatly.

July 30: Monday.

Took James Peirce (carpenter) with me to Norristown to "lay out" a house. I got Lawrence E. Corson, my nephew, to come there & "run" the job. So we got it all fixed before 9 A.M., and the Well Digger began at the well.

I have pasted in here a list of Army Officers, who have been promoted, in which I find Joseph has been brevetted Major. It is strange how many of them are from the Reserves and how few from other Regiments. Some favoritism, I suppose, or from greater efforts on the part of some of the leading officers in behalf of their Regiments. Joseph says that General Crawford told them a few weeks since at the Great Parade, on 4<sup>th</sup> of July, that he would have the Reserves officers brevetted.

August 1: Wednesday.

Went to Norristown to see the man at the well. Marcus, my nephew, who had a spitting of blood day before yesterday, was with me, and we crossed [the] Schuylkill and went down the other side to Conshohocken, saw several patients there, visited some about Spring Mill and got home to dinner.



September 9: Sunday.

Since I last wrote many things have occurred of great interest. The most important public matter perhaps is the defection of the President of the United States. He has abandoned the Republican Party and thrown himself into the arms of the Democrats and Rebels. A convention of those people has been held in Philad. in which the vilest rebels who have been fighting for four years against us and starving our prisoners, have been arm in arm with our Northern Democrats. There has also been a convention of Southern Loyalists in session in Philad. during the whole of last week. It was a big time. The largest meeting was held last Wednesday night, that ever occurred in Philad.

September 10: Monday.

Morning, sunrise. Got up quite early to get things in motion. Mother (wife) is not at home, but at Germantown. Annie Bacon, our niece, leaves this morning for home. I will take George (boy) to Norristown, so that he may work about the building (I am building a house). Joseph will practice. Isaac (the man) will work at home, and Follen will study law, while Susan, Bertha & Frannie & Mary will attend to the home, our Jane & Ann (domestics) will wash, &c., so we will all be under way. After this, I want to write here every day. I have resolved & re-resolved but scarcely keep my promise a day. From this time I will try to keep my resolve.

September 12: Wednesday.

Dr. Wales, surgeon U.S.N. & myself went on Monday afternoon to Perkiomen Lead Mines, & to a Baryta Quarry<sup>xxxxv</sup> near Shannonville to get specimens, got a number & had a pleasant time.

This morning two Irish men came from Chestnut Hill & bought 15 lots of land from me for \$ 2900. Robt. R. Corson & self bought 4 ½ acres last Spring for \$ 2300. We will realize for it all I think about \$ 6500. I was active in business today.

September 13: Thursday

Went to Norristown on business. Children all went to a Pick-Nick.

September 16: Sunday.

Mrs. Corson & myself have just returned (noon) from the funeral of Mrs. Super, the good kind nurse who attended to so many of our children when they were infants. She died suddenly at Media. Only a half hour's illness.

On yesterday & day before, besides practicing, I was greatly engaged in procuring new books for the public schools.

We had considerable company here last night, Bacons, Lukens, &c.

At my instance Mr. McDowel[l] sent his daughter to Miss Bush's school in Belvidere, N.J.

October 3: Wednesday.

On the preceding page, Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> I resolved to write here every day, but how have I kept that promise? Have written only three or four times. From this time I will try to do better.

The political canvass is very intense now. There was the largest meeting in Norristown yesterday, that has ever been held there.

November 1: Thursday.

How have I kept my promise above! Alas how easy to forget what we resolve to do so ever neatly. Well to bring things up, we beat the Copperheads by electing General Geary<sup>cxxxvi</sup> Governor by about 17,000 majority, although the President of the United States, traitor to his party & his country, and to Liberty, threw all his influence in their favor.

Within two weeks we have had three very violent cases of cholera, and many in the early stage. One of the three, Christopher Smith died. Henry Hellings & Hugh McGittigan [McGitigan] got well.

Joseph & myself have done a good deal of practice lately. This with building the house at Norristown. Iron ore digging, &c., has made us busy indeed.

Yesterday Joseph, Bertha, Susan & Frannie went to Laurel Hill to see the graving of our dear children.

I am in leisure moments engaged in reading "My School & School Masters," by Hugh Miller, a most delightful book. I read last night till near eleven o'clock. Was called to attend a case of midwifery at 2, and a case of pleurisy at 5 A.M.

November 17: Saturday.

Daylight. Have been up nearly an hour, roused the men and hired girls. Had one call, a boy with Itch. Have a great deal to do today, and Joseph will be very busy too.

November 22: Thursday

Yesterday, Wednesday, my nephew Dr. Ellwood M. Corson was married to Miss Maggie Wilkinson of Philad. by "Mr. Furness" [sic], Unitarian Minister of much celebrity in the Church corner of 10<sup>th</sup> & Locust Streets, Philad. "Mother" & self were down. After the wedding which took place at 12 ½ o'clock we all went to the "Girard House" and partook of "Lunch." Got home at 5 P.M. Joseph could not go to the wedding, as we had a great deal of practice on hand. I had a consultation with Dr. J. R. Reid as I came home.

December 31: Monday.

9 P.M. As will be seen by reference to the date above, I have neglected writing since Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>. Many things have since occurred worthy of note, but I cannot put them all down. We have done a great deal of "practice." Four weeks today, "Aunt Susan Foulke" came here & has been here ever since. She has been boarding with her sister Priscilla for some months, but has become offended and on that account left there. She has been very unsettled, I might say unhappy, for several years, and has been boarding in Philad. at great expense. At one place she gave \$11.00 per week, at the other \$13.00; besides \$ 2 or 3 Dols. per week for washing. We are not suited to have her with us, but find neither Jesse, Charles, Rebecca, Hannah, nor Emily will have her, and she does not want to stay with Priscilla in Germantown, and as I would rather keep her here than to have her live out among strangers at great expense to herself and exposed to annoyances,

it is probable we will have her living with us for some time. Though her sisters may shove off the trouble upon us, knowing too as they all do, how large and expensive our family is, I will not shrink from doing our duty by her. Her mind and feelings seem greatly improved since she has been here. Our family is large and there is much more to interest her here than at Priscilla's, and I have a hope that a short residence here will restore her to the happy, joyous state of mind natural to her prior to the 30<sup>th</sup> year of her age. She is now nearly 45, I suppose.

All the children have been living at home the past year, except Tacie, who with her husband, boards in Norristown with "Aunt Ann," widow of Brother, Joseph D. Corson.

Joseph has practiced with me.

Charles Follen Corson, the youngest son has boarded at home, but goes to Philad. every week day to the office of William Rawle, Esq., with whom he is studying Law.

Susan, was engaged to be married to Jaywood Lukens some time in September. So we have him every Sunday to tea, also one evening in the week to spend the evening.

Bertha, who is now about 18, has been at home.

Frannie at school in Philad.

Mary, about 14, has been at home all the time, and is a smart little girl to work and manage, but is not advanced in books, never having gone to school. Her mother and sisters have paid some attention to her.

Besides mother, myself, the two boys and four girls at home (and Aunt Susan), we have two men, Isaac Shaw (white), and George Jones (color'd), and two girls, Ann White, who has lived with us about 27 years, and Jane Blair, with us now about 4 years.

I am now in my 63<sup>rd</sup> year, Mother in her 55<sup>th</sup>. Our new house at Norristown is nearly finished. Tacie & her husband are waiting anxiously to go in it. It will, I think, be quite pretty when done.

Robert Corson & myself purchased a lot of ground at Chestnut Hill last April for \$2300, and we sold less than half of it for 2900 Dols., the remainder will bring us about \$4000, I think.

Two hours & a half will usher in the New Year 1867. It is fitting then that I should now look over my forgotten resolves of the old year, and come up with a nobler zeal to new pledges for well-doing in the year just ready to dawn upon us.

Oh! How earnestly I desire to live up to the highest standard of morality, and the purest virtue, believing that happiness can be best procured in that way, and that thus only, the highest welfare of the family can be promoted. All have gone to bed, save mother and myself (except Joseph & Frannie who are out visiting) and now in this hour, when I hear the tread of the coming year I invoke the aid of an Almighty Providence in the fulfillment of the great work, to which I pledge myself. "O Lord deliver us from Temptation."

Hiram Corson, M.D.

It is now more than two years since Edward left us and more than one since Carrie joined him, and yet how vividly they are always before me. Peace & Joy be theirs.  
H.C.

## 1867

January 6: Sunday.

Practiced some this morning, then went to Meeting (Hicksite Friends). Joseph Jones, my niece Sarah Read's son, and his wife Emma Wood, dined with us by invitation. They were married a few weeks since.

In looking back over the past week, I do not see much to report in my doing. I hope this next week will be nothing worse.

Our Legislature is in session, and there is a great excitement & maneuvering in relation to U.S. Senator. The contest is now between Hon. Thaddeus Stevens & Hon. Simon Cameron, the latter tricky politician being supported by the Democrats as well as his Republican friends in order to defeat the great Radical Republican Mr. Stevens. It is feared that as the Democrats will not take up one of their number, they will elect Cameron. The great contest in Congress is in relation to the Constitutional Amendments and Negro Suffrage.

February 3: Sunday.

How long I have neglected writing! We had several weeks of sleighing. Snow in great drifts. Roads greatly blocked up. Joseph & myself have done a deal of "practice." Susan & Bertha made a visit of one week to Easton, to see John & Agnes Bacon. "Aunt Susan" still with us. Follen has been going daily to the city to pursue his studies, which he does with ardor and diligence. Joseph is a diligent doctor in practice & in collecting money. In January he got about \$ 600, last year more than 3,000 Dollars.

Benjamin F. Hancock, Esq., Attorney at Law, and at present U.S. Revenue Collector, at Norristown, and father of Major Gen. Winfield S. Hancock, died two days ago. My brother Dr. William Corson attended him. Disease, Hemorrhage from bladder, perhaps caused by cancer of prostate gland.

I practiced this forenoon. At noon Joseph went to Miss Frink's boarding place, and brought her here to dine. She is a young lady from Vermont, who teaches in one of the public schools under my charge. We felt that it would be a relief to her to come over & dine with us and spend the afternoon instead of being shut up in her room this dull day when it is too "sloppy" to walk out.

It is now 2 P.M. Follen is lying on the lounge, and Joseph sitting behind the stove reading "the Press," while I write. I can hear Mother, Bertha, Frannie, Miss Frink & little Marie talking pleasantly in the parlor. Aunt Susan too is there. Daughter Susan I took with me to Conshohocken this morning & she staid at Mr. Lucas Lukens'. She will come up with Jaywood this evening. Indeed, here they come now.

During all last month I had nothing to regret in my actions. Yesterday I erred somewhat, but I hope to be more on the watch.

We are now trying to raise \$ 200 per month in Norristown & vicinity to pay 4 teachers to teach the colored children of slaves in Virginia. We have agreed to support the "Barnville school" in which 4 teachers are employed at a salary of \$ 600 each.

February 4: Monday.

I went early to Norristown with Mother & Susan, who took the Cars there to Philad. to buy some clothes for the party to be given in the city at Alan Wood's in honor

of Howard's birthday. Joseph also went at noon to get some clothes. Agnes Bacon came up with our people this evening. I practiced much today. Received a letter of William Livezey today in relation to my offer to Mrs. Maulsby for about three acres of land behind the barn, to which I replied, refusing to advance another penny. Have read all the evening.

February 17: Sunday.

The past week has been eventful. On Wednesday morning (13<sup>th</sup>), the Old Quaker Meeting-house at Plymouth was discovered on fire about 6 A.M. Before any thing could be done to check it, the flames opened all over it, and it was soon consumed. The wood ashes had been put into the cellar, & was the cause of the fire probably; although the Sexton, William Tyson, thinks otherwise. On the same morning, and at the same hour, John Livezey, son of Thomas, died at his brother Edward's in Philad., after only one weeks sickness. His brother Henry is also sick under my care, at his Father's, with Rheumatic disease, like John's. John was buried in the Plymouth Grave Yard yesterday (16<sup>th</sup>), in [the] afternoon. After most of the carriages had left the house, "Aunt Martha" (as the children call her), brother George Corson's widow, was upset by the wagon being "turned too short" by the driver, and her leg was broken in two places most sadly. Joseph & myself dressed it for her.

I cannot comment myself very much for my watchfulness over my conduct the past two weeks, but now hope to be watchful.

9 ½ P.M. Joseph is reading a medical journal, his Mother a history of Pa. and all the rest but Susan have gone to bed, while she and her betrothed, Jaywood Lukens, are in the next room talking.

March 10: Sunday.

There has been a deal of wet, dull, muddy days for the past three weeks, in which we have had a bad time to get about in our business. I have sold my Hill over the Schuylkill for \$ 1000 to the Reading Rail Road Co. I bought 7 acres about twenty years ago for \$ 100, sold 2 acres of it for \$ 50, have cut a great many posts and Rails almost yearly, & now got \$ 1000 for it.

Last week the Elections at Alexandria, Va., took place, & the Rebels refused the votes of the color'd people. Congress immediately took it up and were about passing a Bill to repeal the Law, which transferred that portion of the District of Columbia to Va. This frightened the Rebels greatly & they came to beg for mercy.

March 17: Sunday.

A great snow storm set in yesterday, and has cont'd. ever since, from 9 A.M. yesterday till noon today. The snow is about 9 inches thick. William Cresson & Tacie came down today. He has gone out of the Mill. His father & Frank Bacon have it now on some new terms. What he will do now, we do not know. They are greatly worried about it. The new house is now ready for them, and yet they cannot tell whether they can get a business which will suit, or allow them, to live in it.

On Friday last, "Aunt Susan" went to Pennlyn [sic] to stay with Jesse a while. She seems sadly unsettled in her mind about some things. Loud tremors.

We have been riding in the sleigh today, whenever we were out to practice. Sleighing quite good. Satisfactory day.

April 1: Monday.

The weather which has been horrible has cleared up and promises to be favorable for moving for a few days.

About a week ago Tacie spit some blood which has alarmed us somewhat, particularly as she has been quite pale for some time; but as she has no cough, we hope it was only an incidental affair.

April 26:

Behold! How after a resolve to write almost daily I have allowed a month & more to pass without a word or line. Much has happened since I last wrote. The Southern States, or rather the Southern Rebels, who were so determined to resist everything done by Congress, and who believed that the President would help them, have found that resistance only led to the enactment of more stringent laws, and that the President was powerless to help them, have yielded to the necessities of the case, and are now not only willing to have the Negroes to vote, but are counting them for their votes. Large conventions & meetings of former slaves are occurring in all the Slave States, at which noble speeches are made by colored preachers & others, and colored men have already been elected to office in N. Carolina. The work goes bravely on. How vast the change effected in a few years in the condition of the colored people of the U. States!

Tacie has been taking cod-liver oil ever since.

Miss Alice Whitall continues ill. I have been visiting her every day. She is going down in Consumption. How agonized her parents will be. She is a lovely girl.

Joseph & self have been greatly engaged in our practice every day for months. I have bought 3 ½ acres of land [from] Rachel Maulsby for \$ 1,000. It is a great price, but as it lies directly back of my barn, and runs to the Conshohocken Turnpike Road, I think it will be a great accommodation to us, and besides, I think there will be found in it much iron ore.

Alan W. Corson, my brother, & myself & Elias went last Saturday to the old burying ground of the Corson's at Addisville, to examine the records on the tombs. It was greatly interesting. There is no church there now, but a new one has been erected hard by. The oldest grave of our family was made there in 1754. Only six families are to be found in this yard. They appear to be of those who fled at the same time from the persecution of Louis XIV and who first landed on Staten Island, as may be seen by consulting Weiss's History of the French Protestants, vol.2, page 318.<sup>cxxxvii</sup> Corsons, DuBois, Lefferts, Cressens, Cornells, & Bennetts.

My new house has caused me many rides to Norristown to see to have fence made, yard fixed, trees planted, &c., &c. It has cost me frightfully.

Frannie has been home from her school for a week, with sore throat. All the girls had it somewhat, and their mother has been very poor with giddiness, &c.

April 28: Sunday.

Yesterday was one to be remembered. My old schoolmate, my friend in boyhood, my companion & friend in early manhood, Merchant Maulsby died at his

residence 17<sup>th</sup> & Green St., Philad., yesterday morning early. He has been during many years a weak, suffering man, and yet he by great care of himself lived on until he was about 62 years of age. Thus they go off, the friends of my youth. And do I find myself at this advanced [age], and in view of the Death which is coming to my friends & myself, still engaged in the strife & turmoil of business? Still pursuing the same search after happiness as forty years ago? Am I still in the same habits? Have my resolves for amendment of life yielded no fruit? If so, it is now time to re-resolve & carry the resolves into execution. I have been quite unwell today, probably from unwarrantable exertion yesterday. I have had too much to do this spring. Finishing the new house, yard, &c., and attending to the practice have been too much for me. Once more I resolve to be careful.

April 29: Monday.

Quite poorly today, all day. Joseph has done the practice. I have not gone at all.

I got a letter on Saturday from Doctor W. Atlee, Professor Ann Preston of the Female Medical College, thanking me for the favorable Resolutions which I introduced into the Montgomery Co. Med. Society. For six years I have stood by the Female Medical College, and it is now so prosperous that some of the old fogies are alarmed, and they brought forward resolutions declaring that the members of the Philad. Co. Med. Society can not associate with them. This they published in the Medical Journal. We then passed just the opposite resolutions and had them published.

May 6: Monday

Joseph went to Easton, Pa. on Saturday past, to see John & Agnes Bacon, returned in the 1 ½ P. train from Philad. today. I have had a busy time since he left, having had six new calls, and there was a dreadful suicide here about on Saturday, no rather on Friday night last. William Fratt [Frat] left his family at 9 P.M. as if to go out for a few minutes. They became uneasy in about half hour, hunted him till midnight, then sat up till morning. When daylight came, found him in a soap stone quarry, about two hundred yards from the house., dead, throat cut, with his own pen-knife which lay close by his hand.

May 7: Tuesday.

Practiced much. Rained dreadfully. Follen & myself dropped into the church while the funeral was there. The Minister preached a very considerate sermon. He was a Methodist from Merion Square, and dealt gently with the suicide. How different from forty years ago, when even in this neighborhood, the suicide could find burial in no grave yard but that of the "Friends."

May 12: Sunday.

The big rain of Monday & Tuesday prevented us from working at planting corn all the week, but this is a most beautiful morning. Never have I seen the grass look more beautiful, than now as I write. It is so luxurious, so green. The apple trees, & cherry & pear trees, sprinkled among the evergreens, in the lawn behind the house, are so loaded down with blossoms & young leaves, and the evergreens, pines and firs, are so graceful themselves, that it is a delightful scene this fine morning. Mother & all the children,

Joseph, Follen, Susan, Bertha, Frannie & Mary are yet all in bed, or at least not down stairs. Hettie Bicking, the little girl, is cleaning out the stove. Ann Jones, the old and faithful servant for twenty eight years, is getting breakfast. Isaac Shaw, the old & faithful servant for 28 years was up very early as usual, and caring for the horses & cows (4 horses & colt & three cows & 2 heifers)., and George Jones the color'd boy of five years, now 19, is helping Isaac, & cleaning our boots. Tacie and her husband will, I suppose, be here about 10 A.M., or perhaps not till 2 or 3 P.M. as Mr. & Mrs. Cresson are in Philad. on a visit. I have just begun my report to the Medical Society of this State, and must finish it in this month. If not interfered with by company, I hope to do much with it today.

May 13: Monday.

Evening. I have been writing at my report occasionally for several days, or evenings. I am greatly engaged between the practice & attending to the men fixing the yard at the new house. I am terracing it and sodding it.

Since I last wrote, Jefferson Davis, the Chief of the Rebellion, has been brought before the Court at Richmond, Virginia, and been released on Bail of 100,000 Dollars. Horace Greeley, one of the great leaders of the Republican Party, being one of the Bailees. Some of our Party condemn him for this act, but I think it is consistent in him, as he has all along advocated letting him go without punishment, that it would be sad & unfortunate if the U.S. Authorities should hang him. That the effect will be good I doubt not. Our people will not lose faith in Horace, and it takes away from the Democracy the occasion to revile us, and charge us with a desire to hold him in prison, or hang him. They can say nothing now, that his first Surity was the formerly despised "Editor of the great New York Tribune." Nobody seems to care that Jeff has got out. He left for Canada, & now though scarcely a week has elapsed, his name is not heard anywhere.

Susan has been a little sick for a few days. Mother is not very well for the last month. Tacie is now staying here with us.

June 2: Sunday.

Mother & Follen & self went this afternoon, having George the color'd. boy to drive, in the carriage to Laurel Hill to see the graves of our dear children. It came on rain before we got there so that we could not stay long. Oh! These are sad visits. This evening I have spent the evening in finishing my Report to the State Medical Society. I feel now as if I could write all night. They have all gone to [bed]. Joseph is again anxious to go into the Army as Assistant Surgeon, and I feel disposed to let him go. He dislikes "the practice" & it is not worth while for him to stay longer.

I will read a chapter in the Testament and then go to bed. I hope that in all things I will be able to resist temptations to evil, for of evil cometh unhappiness. Oh! How little we know what a day or an hour may bring forth.

June 3: Monday.

Practiced & in afternoon met the School Board. Am writing in leisure moments, my essay on Food for Children.



June 4: Tuesday.

Practicing in forenoon. Met Dr. Reid in consultation after dinner. Joseph poorly today. Don't know whether to go to Army Board examination or not.

I have pasted an article which I published in this paper two or more years ago, and which I just found among some old letters. It will explain itself.<sup>cxxxviii</sup>

June 16: Sunday.

On Tuesday evening 12<sup>th</sup> [11<sup>th</sup>], Dr. J. K. Reid & myself and Dr. Schrack left Conshohocken at dark for Philad., then took the Pittsburgh cars at 31<sup>st</sup> & Market St. at 11 ¼ o'clock. We arrived at Pittsburgh at 2 P.M. and at 4 P.M. attended the meeting of the Pa. State Medical Society. I went on to help the case of women physicians, to remove the restriction of the State Soc'y., against consulting with them. The subject came up after hearing the reports on it, from the Co. Societies. Dr. Atlee made a speech of about 45 minutes, but before any of the rest of us could speak, some mean fellow moved to lay the subject on the table, and under the fear that there was so much other business before the Society that we could not do it all. It was carried. I then introduced a preamble & resolution denouncing the use of alcoholic drinks by physicians, which they failed to be able to lay on the table, but after Dr. Nebinger<sup>cxxxix</sup> had spoken on the subject, was postponed before I could get to reply.

Last year at Wilkesbarre [sic], just as the meeting was about closing, I gave the Treasurer, Dr. Mayburry, a check for \$25 to be offered as a prize for the best medical essay on any subject. On Wednesday the Prize Committee announced that they had awarded it to a German physician, Jean Baptist Ullersperger of Munich in the Kingdom of Bavaria, physician to the Duke Augustus of Leuchtenburg, member of the Imperial Academy of Naturalists of Germany, Laureate of the Imperial Academy of Medicine of Paris, &c., &c., &c. So my twenty five Dollars produced something. The subject is, "Transfusion & Infusion, & Hypodermic Injections." It was written in French, with quotations from Latin, Italian, German, English & French authors in their own language. It will be published by us in French & in English in October, 1867. The transactions are published. The essay occupies 76 pages in French, and 72 pages of English. See Transactions for 1867.

We arrived at home on Friday by the 8 ½ P.M. train from Philad. We had a splendid entertainment and banquet given us at Pittsburgh, without one drop of intoxicating drink.

Joseph left home today at 12 noon to take the Cars at Chestnut Hill, on his way to N. York, where tomorrow he will be examined for the situation of Assist. Surgeon of U.S. Army. He seems very much opposed to the practice here, and yet he is a most popular man. He likes the Army Practice, and also the salary. In the practice there are none to quarrel with him, and the pay comes without dunning.

June 20: Thursday.

Joseph came home in the 8 A.M. train this morning. He got through his examination before the "Army Board" last evening and at once started for Philad. He does not, of course, know whether he will be accepted. Since he came back, he does not seem to care much about going to the Army, but would not like it, if he should not "pass."

June 23: Sunday.

I have been writing most of the afternoon. Practiced this forenoon. Yesterday some Literary Societies held a picnic in Livezey's woods & I having had an invitation to speak on the occasion, did so on the subject of the inequality of the Laws, as bearing on the sexes. Why should not men be subject to the same laws as women? And why should not women have equal rights with men? The Intestate Laws were presented as a specimen of the oppressive enactments against women. It was well received and many rec'd. the new thoughts. They had never attracted their attention before. The subject of woman's right to vote was also alluded to with favorable recommendation. W. Cresson & Tacie, Jaywood Lukens, Saml. & Ellwood Corson are here.

June 24: Monday.

Joseph has just rec'd. notice that he has been accepted by the Examining Board. He has also rec'd. an offer of Contract Service until the Commission can be forwarded to him. This he will decline, as he prefers to wait for the commission.

July 27: Saturday.

Morning. Bertha has just started to Philad., to go to the Seashore, at Atlantic City, with her Uncle Robert R. Corson & his wife & Aunt Emily, to spend one week. Frannie went with her as far as Philad., to bring home the books. Joseph took them down to Conshohocken. Follen went to Norristown to put some money in [the] bank for me and bring his mother from William Corson's where she has been since yesterday morning.

This is a warm but delightful morning and reminds me vividly of what Maximillian, the late unfortunate "Emperor of Mexico," as he styled himself, said when brought from his prison to be shot. Looking up and around, on the beautiful prospect, and feeling the pleasant breezes as they fanned his brow, and which must have been a sweet change from the damp stifled air of his prison, he said, "what a beautiful day. It is just such an one as I hoped to have for the day of my death." These were not the exact words, but such was the import. It is now about three weeks since he was shot.

July 29: Monday.

Yesterday was very warm. There was quite a large gathering of Friends at Plymouth Meeting, as it was the first meeting since its being newly built. They have finished it beautifully, and fixed up the walls and sheds so that it looks much better there now than before the fire. I gave \$50 towards re-building it. Since the fire they have held meetings in the shed, a part of which they boarded up. Practiced much this forenoon.

September 2: Monday.

I have just returned from a visit to Wm. B. Roberts, president of the Montgomery Co. Agricultural Society. He had notified me that the Society had appointed me a Delegate to the meeting of the Agricultural College in Centre County, to elect Trustees. He is very desirous that I shall go, and I went over to see him in relation to it.

September 3: Tuesday.

8 P.M. Have just returned from a visit to Dctr. Kennedy, at his Polytechnic College Farm, in Gwynedd Township. He is president of the Polytechnic College. He too is desirous that I shall go, and gave me much information in relation to the Centre County College, and also gave me a letter of introduction to Mr. Lacy Darlington of West Chester who will be at the meeting as a Delegate from Chester County.

September 4: Wednesday.

This morning I feel prepared to go to Centre County tomorrow if Joseph who is suffering from a boil on his hand, & his mother who has been several days not well, should be well enough to do without me. I do not think it will do to leave home, so I am disappointed after having every thing ready.

Three weeks since I visited Sister Mary Adamson, and after dinner, spent two hours with Mr. C. M. Wheatley, their neighbor, who has in his possession the finest collection of fresh water shells in America. Also has most interesting fossils, animal and vegetable, obtained from the Tunnel at Phenixville [sic]. I have been sending boxes of minerals to persons, and hope to have some in exchange very soon. Rec'd. a letter from the Corresponding Secretary of a Cabinet of Science in Wilkes-Barre today, offering to exchange with me. I have obtained a great many beautiful specimens of Rhob. Spar, Calcareous Spar from a marble quarry near here. I am now collecting minerals with the intention to give them to some college, perhaps Swarthmore.

September 12: Thursday.

This is a lovely morning. Yesterday began the "Inter-State-Fair" at Norristown. It will continue yet several days, but I think I will not go. I have much to attend to. Tonight I have a meeting at Spring Mill School House, to address the people in relation to the public schools. I think I have three excellent teachers there.

September 29: Sunday.

Have not been very well for several days, but still doing a good deal of practice, overseeing the farming, attending to the schools, &c.

In past week there has been a high time in Philad. welcoming Sheridan, Hancock & Sickles by the Republican Party. It has cont'd. several days & nights, reception in day, meetings & speeches at night. Hancock is accused of leaning towards Johnsonism, and he did not go heartily as the others did. Robert R. Corson who is quite a manager in the affair, invited Joseph to come down on Friday night to the Union League where they would have the Lions, but Jos. did not go.

Hancock spent one day at Norristown with his mother. The General is a very good fellow, but I think he does not like to cut loose from the Democracy. It is hard to get away from our Education.

I had two attacks of palpitation of Heart this past week that affected me unusually, when they began. I felt a sudden giddiness, & also fullness & choking sensation. They alarmed me a little.

November 1: Friday

I have had for a week or more very unpleasant intermissions of the beats of the

Heart. It would lose one beat every few seconds. I felt weak & miserable. After suffering for a few days (though I still continued to practice), I took the Aperient mixture so as to purge me, & after that felt greatly relieved.

November 3: Sunday.

Joseph rec'd. his appointment as Asst. Surgeon in the Army on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October, to date from October 9<sup>th</sup>. Since that time he has been daily expecting his Orders, but now, Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>, has not yet arrived.

November 10: Sunday.

About 4 days ago Joseph rec'd. orders from General Grant's Secretary of War to report at Fort Columbus, New York Harbor. Mother & the girls have been busy getting him ready. He also has had some things to do, and he has steadily helped with the practice, and as he could, took leave of his intimate friends. Uncle William was here to dinner with us today. At half past four he took leave of his mother & sister, and then Follen and myself took him to the Cars at Conshohocken. There we parted with him, for how long a time none of us know. We may never see him again. But he expects to return again before leaving for a distant post, which he will do soon he supposes.

Well, I do not see what better he could do than to go. Some people think it very strange that I could leave him go, or that he should want to go. But practice was annoying to him, and it was not worth while to fasten it on him for a lifetime merely that he might help me for a few years. I could not ask it, for I can practice just as much as is pleasant to me, and need do no more. It would be unpleasant to me to do nothing. He likes the Army practice. The salary is good, the labor is light, and as he advances in age, the situation is a real sinecure. So we hope that he will enjoy himself, and we shall have [a] pleasant intercourse by letters, and many visits from him. He will stay at Uncle Charles Bacon's house tonight, and leave Philad. for N. York tomorrow morning at 8 o'clock. I hope he will be successful in life. He is now nearly 30 years of age and a model of morality & manliness.

So they go, Edward & Caroline, Joseph & Tacie, all away. Susan engaged to be married. Follen nearly ready to graduate in the Law, and with us only nights & Sundays. Bertha & Frannie & Mary only with us. Mary going to day-school.

November 17: Sunday

We had three letters from Joseph last week. He seems to be having a pleasant time at the Fort. Nothing to do, good quarters, fine library, & pleasant companions. I did all the practice last week very well. Have had no affection of [the] heart. Mother & girls were greatly engaged the whole week making dresses, and on Saturday P.M. Bertha & Frannie & cousin Ida Corson went to Horsham, to John Iredells to a party given by their school-mate Miss Comly. They returned yesterday, greatly pleased with the entertainment. I was called to see Irene Jones this morning at day-light, have just returned (7 A.M.)

## 1868

January 11: Saturday.

Many things transpired since I wrote the above which I ought to have noted at the time they occurred. Joseph was ordered to report at Fort Columbus N. York, as I said, but about the first of Dec. was ordered to go on board the large Steamer Raleigh, to accompany 549 men, soldiers, to N. Orleans & Galveston. From N. Orleans he wrote to us, from Galveston he wrote to us, and in a little over two weeks from the time of leaving N. York, he suddenly popped in upon us one Sunday morning. He staid with us three days, and then returned to Fort Columbus. He had returned from Galveston, overland, instead of returning with the ship, as the captain & others wished him to do. The Raleigh was one of the regular line of Ocean Steamers, making a trip every two weeks, and calling at Cuba on the return.

Now comes the catastrophe. The very next trip from N. York, with only 65 people on board she was burned at sea, 25 miles out from Charleston, Captn. Marchman & 13 others being lost. To show what danger there was when Joseph was on board on the former trip, I paste here a slip from a paper, sent to me by Jos. from N. York last week.<sup>cxl</sup>

When Joseph reached N. Orleans it was very warm, though nearly the 1<sup>st</sup> of Dec. He had been there but 24 hours when there were 3 cases of cholera on board. Taking nearly half the men they moved at once for Galveston, & before they got there, there were nearly 40 more cases of Diarrhea, &c. The Yellow Fever & Cholera were both still lingering in both those doomed cities. Their ravages for a few months were beyond what had ever been known. He was most kindly treated by the Army officers of [the] latter city during the 2 days that he staid. Since his return to Fort Columbus he has had a pleasant time. We have had numerous letters from him.

I have been getting along very well in the practice, been very busy, with good patients. Joseph supposed when he went away that Doctors would rush in. On the contrary, Dr. Stong of Spring Mill and Dr. Hampton of Barren Hill have both since left here.

I am writing a few articles on the Cattle Disease for the "Practical Farmer," at the request of the Publisher, Paschall Morris. My first one has just been copied into the Evening Bulletin.

We had our County Med. Soc. meeting at Norristown today; pretty good turn-out. Practiced till noon, got up at one, did business with several persons, attended the meeting in good time, brought Mother & "Aunt Harriet Foulke" home from Daughter Tacie Cresson's.

I paste here the touching but truthful production of our gifted poetess, Grace Greenwood, Mrs. Lippincott. Oh! How worthy [is] she to write of the great & good Lincoln.<sup>cxli</sup>

I think it was the sitting and waiting for the procession<sup>cxlii</sup> to pass that gave Caroline her first cold. We rode home that night, but she staid all night at Uncle Charles Bacon's. I was therefore not exposed by coming home.

January 19: Sunday.

Charles Dickens reading in Philad. Last Monday Mr. James Yocom Jr. took

daughter Bertha to hear the celebrated writer Charles Dickens read Christmas Carols and other works. It was at "Concert Hall." Tickets \$ 2 each. Crowded House. (It has been very cold the past week).

There have been many criticisms of the reading, some favorable, others unfavorable. I read the same to the family after Bertha came back, and though I did not read it so well as the author, it was very pleasant to them, they were pleased to say.

**Editor's note:** At this point in the diary Dr. Corson pasted newspaper clippings and gave these reasons for it: "There were many ill natured Critics of Dickens, so that I feel anxious to paste here the beautiful thoughts of our gifted Poetess Grace Greenwood (Mrs. Lippincott). How beautifully she has written."

Bertha & Mr. Yocom went to hear Mr. Dickens read again last Thursday evening; that was the third of his course of six lectures to be given in Philad. He gives two readings a week.

Last Friday just after dinner (20 minutes after one), I was sitting in the dining room, talking to a neighbor, when suddenly struck with palpitation of [the] heart. All were away but Susan. I went to bed and for eight hours & a half it continued. I took a grain of Morpheum, 10 grains quinine, four drops veratrina, &c., but with no avail. I finally got "sick at stomach," and the first attempt to vomit cured me at once. I had been in a dyspeptic state for several days, and on that day had eaten pork, sour crout [sic] & Mince-pie.

February 12: Wednesday.

Some two weeks since Joseph was home for two days, nearly 3 days. He rode with me one very cold day, with fever, headache, pain in bones, &c. But next day he left for New York, and he has since written that he is quite well. Last week we had Miss Sallie Rogers [Rodgers] of Ohio, daughter of my friend Dr. Robert Rogers [Rodgers], here for three days, a pleasant and lovely girl.

Today (Tuesday) Feb. 12 [February 12, 1868, was actually a Wednesday], my daughter Bertha told me she was engaged to be married to Mr. James Yocum [sic] Jr. I supposed it would come to that, as he has been very regular in his visits since he met her at the Atlantic City in the hot weather of last summer. Well it does seem strange that the girls are going away. Tacie married, Susan & Bertha engaged. Mr. Yocum appears to be a most excellent & pleasant man, but he is 30 while Bertha is just turned of 20 years. William Cresson is filling his store with goods. He will open it in a day or two. I hope he will succeed. He is temperate & active with good business tact, I think.

Ten days ago I rec'd. an invitation from the president of the State Temperance Convention, to prepare an address, or rather "a paper" on the subject of alcohol as a preventive of disease and a remedy for disease. Last Sunday being very snowy, I devoted myself to it, and wrote 19 pages. I think it will do well. Got about 62 Dols. rent for one quarry for [the] month of Feb.

Yesterday we voted in a new Executive Committee at the Agricultural Society meeting, who are favorable to a union with the Norristown Society. So as we have already voted for the removal, it will now most likely be done.

February 29: Saturday.

When I got home at noon to day, I found Joseph here, and on his way to Carlisle Barracks, to which he has been assigned for duty.

March 4: Wednesday.

Joseph left here this morning at 8 o'clock for Philad., and expects to leave there for Carlisle at 11 A.M. We have had a pleasant time with him for several days. He has done a good deal of riding for me. The weather is intensely cold and the sleighing very good.

March 9: Monday.

Today Follen went to Philad. to be examined by the Board of Law Examiners. He came home in the 8 P.M. Car, looking pretty weary. He did not miss a single question, and passed with honor.

On Monday evening, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, in the Baptist church in Norristown, I delivered my address which I prepared for the State Society, to a large concourse of people. It was well received, I think.

March 11: Wednesday.

I have sent my address to the printers of the State Tem. Society's proceedings, and also sent my third number on the pleuropneumonia to the Practical Farmer edited by Paschall Morris. Every moment of my time is occupied in practice & writing, &c. Our income from ore, last month was about \$ 75.00.

Richard Corson Foulke, my nephew, Dr. Charles Foulke's son was yesterday rejected by the Professors of the Medical University. This shows what inattention may come to. He is smart enough but did not read well, nor attend lectures well.

March 14: Saturday.

Today at 11 o'clock my son Charles Follen Corson was admitted to practice in the Courts of Philad.

May 1: Friday.

A beautiful day, though the weather has been rainy for most of last month, so that scarcely any oats were sowed until the present week. I am doing a great deal of practice now. Since Joseph, and Dr. Stong of Spring Mill, and Dr. Hampton of Roxborough, went away I have done all they all did so far as the extent of the County has any thing to do.

For several weeks past, Mother & the girls, Susan, Bertha & Frannie have been busy as "mailers," getting things ready for their marriages. Bertha expects to be married in July, if not in June as Mr. Yocum has bought a house in Vine Street, Philad., above 17<sup>th</sup> St., and is to have possession about June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Susan will not be married until October as their house, now building at Conshohocken, will not be done till that time.

Joseph has been at the Military Barracks at Carlisle, Pa. since March 2<sup>nd</sup>. He is delighted with it. It is a cavalry concern. So he has a good horse assigned to him, can ride over the country as much as he pleases, and besides [that] is in the midst of a very

pleasant society, both in the camp and in the town of Carlisle. He was at home about 3 days three weeks ago.

This week rec'd. from the publisher of the Transactions of the State Temperance Society five copies of the proceedings. It contains my address, also five others. I sent one of them to my friend W. H. Johnson of Bucks Co.

May 31: Sunday.

My last writing was on the first day of the month, and now on the last day of the month (Sunday) I resume it. During the month, things have gone on about as usual, save that the weather has been rainy nearly the whole time. Never in my experience has there been so difficult a time to get corn planted. Even now there are many people who have not got it in, and a number who have not got their oats sowed. Joseph has written about twice a week, and is coming on finely. Follen is doing some business. He has rec'd. \$25 for his services this month, and has not been paid all. Richard Foulke, our nephew, has come the past week to stay a few months, that I might instruct him, & examine him. He failed to graduate last winter. I was greatly astonished to find how ignorant he is of medicine. He must have been very idle & inattentive, for he has been two winters at lectures.

Follen was admitted to the Norristown Bar last week. I think if his health should be good, he will do well. He is so attentive to business.

My friend & patient for the last year, Miss Alice Whitall, died during this month. We attended the funeral at Laurel Hill, Mother, Susan, Frannie & self.

**Editor's note:** At this point in the diary, Dr. Corson pasted a newspaper column titled *The Locust*, a reprinting of an article by the late Dr. Gideon S. Smith of Baltimore. The pasting covers most of the first line on top of the page.

.....been away for nearly an hour, seeing Morton Albertson's wife, who is very sick, and have been home an hour, still not one of the family, but the hired people, is up.

The statistician in the Agricultural Department at Washington attached my papers in Practical Farmers in their Journal, and P. Morris asked me to reply, which I did, and I paste it here. [These items are not found pasted in the diary].

Bertha is to be married on 17<sup>th</sup> of June, if all goes well.

June 15: Monday.

This is Locust year, and they are looked for daily. But it has been so rainy, that only a few have shown themselves within a day or two.

June 17: Wednesday.

Bertha's Wedding. James Yocom [sic] & Bertha, our daughter who will be twenty one years of age, 17<sup>th</sup> of next December. Frannie just informed me, they were married by Rev. Thomas Yocom [sic], brother to James, in the presence of his father & mother & five sisters & brother-in-law & son, our family all, Charles Clarke, who was grooms man, with Helen Corson, Mr. Heaton, grooms man with our Frannie, Joseph & one of the Misses Yocom [sic] also were among the Grooms men & Brides maids. Jay



Lukens, W. Cresson, Brother William, Jesse Foulke & Susan, made up the company. At 1½ they took the cars for Philad., and at 3 ½ left Philad. for N. York, where they expected to stay for 2 days, then on to Boston. Joseph got [a] leave of absence from Monday morning 15<sup>th</sup> till Saturday night 20<sup>th</sup>. He came here Monday afternoon, and now will leave Saturday morning. He looks very well and is in fine spirits.

Last week, Wednesday, I went to Harrisburg to attend the State Medical Society meeting. I was the only Delegate from our County. We had a very busy time for two days. As usual, I introduced a resolution against the indiscriminate use of Stimulants, now practiced by physicians. It will appear in the "Transactions." On Friday morning at 8 o'clock I took the cars for Carlisle, and spent an hour & a half with Joseph at the Barracks. He has a pleasant situation there. I returned to Harrisburg by 12 and at 2 P.M. took the cars for home, where I arrived at 7 P.[M.]. Found all well, and patients awaiting my return.

June 20: Saturday.

Locusts very abundant. As usual, much talk about the sting of the Locust, killing hogs, 7 people.

June 26: Friday.

I have just rec'd. a paper from Newtown, Bucks Co. in which is an excellent article on the Locust, and I will therefore paste it in here.

July 1: Wednesday.

Between reading, examining Richard Foulke, and practicing & attending to the hay, I have a busy time of it. I rise early (before 5 A.M.) & go on till 10 P.M.

July 24: Friday.

After much practicing in the morning, I went at 11 o'clock to Philad. to see James & Bertha. They live at 2040 Vine St. They are comfortably situated. Mother has furnished the house beautifully, not grandly. I also visited Dr. Washington Atlee who is attending Mrs. Smith, formerly Miss Detwiler, mother of Mrs. Brown. Mrs. Brown is the illegitimate daughter of Brother George Corson, before his marriage. She is a lovely woman and I have occasionally visited her for many years. Her mother is exceedingly ill now, with disease of the heart. They live at 641 North W.

July 25: Saturday.

Today July 25<sup>th</sup> at 4 P.M. I attended the funeral of Aunt Ann Corson, as the children call her. More than 40 years ago, she was a Miss Annie Hagy, daughter of William Hagy of Mill Creek, of Montgomery County, Lower Merion Township. She has raised a pretty large family under many difficulties and discouragements. These are living, Hiram, Humphrey, Izabella, Hannah, Clara & Howard. Hiram is a present Professor of English Literature & Rhetoric in St. John's College at Annapolis, Maryland. The children were all present at the funeral. She resided at the S. E. corner of Swede & Marshall Streets, and was buried at Montgomery Cemetery. Hannah & Howard are not married. Izabella is married to George Levy's, Clara to Adam (my brother in his 80<sup>th</sup> year) and Mary Adamson, in her Seventy seventh year, were both there. Charles &

William were also there. So we were all present. We returned to the house to tea. Hiram was there and we had a pleasant interview with him. We have seen but little of him for many years. He has been a most laborious student for a great many years.

July 26: Sunday.

This evening Brother William & Hiram, our nephew, formerly Professor in Girard College Philad. and now Professor of English Literature & Rhetoric in St. John's College, Annapolis, Md., spent the evening with us. They staid till nearly eleven o'clock and we had a most interesting conversation with Hiram, who is indeed a most learned man. It is a real treat to hear a learned man converse, when he is not a pedant, nor an egotist. His first schooling from home was paid for by me, to Rev. Fred'k. Anspach, of the Lutheran Church at Barren-Hill, two miles from here. After that William boarded him and paid for his schooling at Mr. Samuel Aaron's Seminary at Norristown for years. Then he became a Tutor there. Afterwards [he] went to Baltimore, then to Washington City, where he staid several years, making his way by teaching languages, himself studying all the time most diligently. He married there, then came to Philad., taught classes in Elocution, and finally became professor in Girard College, which he left a year ago on account of the dampness of the house, and removed to St. John's College, Md. He is now considered one of the first English scholars of the world, and has been invited to the chair of Literature & Rhetoric in the University of Philad.

August 6: Thursday.

Little Mary and her mother have been in New Hope about a week on a visit to Uncle Charles Foulke's family. Since Bertha's marriage her mother has not been well. I think she worked too hard, or rather too steadily and too long, getting her ready. I hope she will be better on her return.

We hear often from Joseph, who is getting along well. Follen has good health now, and is very busy, with cases given him by Mr. Yerkes. Saml. Corson is doing very good. Dick Foulke, who has been two years at medical lectures, but could not graduate last spring, is here, that I may keep him to the study. I find it difficult to change his idle habits, but I think I am succeeding pretty well. He is decidedly dumb. He takes no interest in the study, and is annoying to examine.

I wrote my 8<sup>th</sup> article on pleuro-pneumonia, for publication in the Practical Farmer, today, this morning before breakfast. I am getting a good many subscribers for the Farmer, for Paschall Morris, the Editor.

August 8: Saturday.

Practiced a good deal, which I could not avoid. Wrote two letters, one to H. H. Johnson, one to Joseph. My wife & dgt. still at N. Hope. Beautiful weather.

August 19: Wednesday.

Marcus H. Corson, my nephew, son of my brother George, now deceased, commenced to study medicine today with me. He is very smart, but until now, has had no restraint. Nearly two years ago, while at school at the University of Pa., he was attacked with hemoptysis, since which time he has done nothing but run about [at] home, or ride about the country to invigorate his health. He is now about 19, and if his health

will hold out, he will be through in a couple of years, I hope. Perhaps I can hold on till then. If so, I can put him into a good practice, which I have for many years supposed would be the inheritance of Joseph or Edward, but Alas! That is to be no more thought of. Though I do not know that it would have been a desirable thing for either of them.

Last evening Charles Clarke, editor of the Evening Bulletin, or one of the editors, was here, also Robt. R. Corson & wife, [and] my daughter Bertha was spending the day. There was quite a lively time. Mr. Clarke & Bertha left in the 8 P.M. train. James was to meet Bertha at the Depot, 9<sup>th</sup> & Green. Bertha seems very happy and looks very well.

A new cattle disease is spreading over the Northern States from Cairo, to New York, along the great Rail-Roads. It is called "Spanish Fever," "Texas Fever," because it is brot by Texas cattle, "Illinois Fever," &c., &c. For the past few days the Papers have been giving many accounts of its spread & fatality. The editor of the Practical Farmer wrote to me yesterday to write him something on the subject, which I immediately did.

September 7: Monday.

Yesterday I took mother (wife) up to Tacie's, and then little Mary & myself went to see Charles Adamson & wife, my only sister now. We found them quite well, for so old a couple. Mary is now about seventy six, I think. We had a pleasant time for about four hours, then we came back to Tacie's, took tea, Mr. James Cresson & wife also being there, and arrived at home at 9 P.M. Mary was greatly rejoiced to hear that the cause of Female Physicians was making so great progress. She says that more than thirty years ago she stood alone, so far as she knew, in her advocacy of it. She thinks she has been graciously spared to witness its debut, and successful progress. I shall continue to labor for its advancement.

**Editor's note:** At this point in diary book 4, Corson pasted two items. One is a newspaper clipping with a note from Wm. B. Atkinson, Permanent Secretary of the Medical Society of the State of Pennsylvania. The note informed Corson that he was appointed a member of the Committee on Stimulation, &c. Pasted to the note was this printed copy of Dr. Corson's resolution:

"Resolved, That the present terrible system of stimulation, which sends its victims daily by thousands prematurely to the grave, and which fills our land with drunkenness and crime, cannot much longer maintain itself in the confidence and esteem of the reflecting members of a great and learned profession. A modified, improved, regenerated practice, based upon common sense and a moral, sound, clinical observation, must take its place, and thus carry healing and blessings upon its wings to the nations of the earth."

The other item is a letter to Dr. Corson from President Newkirk of the East Pennsylvania Agricultural School. It is reproduced in its entirety because the letterhead and content are informative.

**East Pennsylvania Agricultural School**  
**Gwynedd, Montgomery Co. Pa.**  
Now consolidated with the Polytechnic College of the State of Penna.

*College Farm Feb'y 5, 1867*

*Mr. Hiram Corson M. D.*  
*Montgomery Co.*  
*Dear Sir*

*I have the*  
*pleasure to inform you that at the last meeting of the*  
*Trustees of the Polytechnic College of Pa. you were*  
*appointed the member of your County Agricultural*  
*Society of the Advisory Council on the East Pa*  
*Agricultural School located near Gwynedd*  
*Montgomery Co. and now consolidated with the*  
*Polytechnic College. The Council consists of*  
*yourself from Montgomery Co*

*Mr. David Landreth, Philada.*

*" J. Lacy Darlington, Chester Co.*

*" Paschall Morris Delaware Co.*

*" William Starely, Bucks Co.*

*Yours very Respectfully*

*M. Newkirk*

*Prest.*

September 14: Monday.

Joseph came here on a visit last Wednesday and will return to Carlisle again tomorrow. It is pleasant to have him return now and then, which he can do without cost as the Rail Road will pass the officers of the Barracks free.

Ida Corson, my niece, went to Vassar Female College this morning, with Dr. George Maulsby, who will pay for her. He has provided her with every thing necessary, and will be at the whole expense.

September 15: Tuesday.

Joseph left for Carlisle at 8 A.M.

September 22: Tuesday.

I saw in the Army News in the Philad. Press today that Joseph K. Corson, Asst. Surgeon, was relieved from duty at Carlisle Barracks, and ordered to report to the Department of the Platte.

Wednesday noon, Joseph was at home when I returned to dinner. He spent last night with James & Bertha, and came up in the nine o'clock train today. He will stay with us till next Monday, when he will return to Carlisle. There will be a party given to him on Tuesday evening by Mrs. General Hatch. On Wednesday he will leave for Omaha. He expects to run up from Davenport, Iowa, to see our land above Winona. I have 640 acres there which I have never seen, but have paid much tax for especially during & since the War.

September 27: Sunday.

Joseph, Follen, Susan, Frannie, Mary, Jesse Foulke, Dick Foulke, Jaywood Lukens are all in the front parlor, while I am writing in the back one. Joseph is in fine spirits, not deterred by the news which reached us two days ago of the murder by the Indians of Lieut. Beecher (nephew of Henry Ward Beecher), and Dr. Moore of the Army, and the wounding of Colonel Forsyth, on the Republican River in Kansas.

September 28: Monday.

Joseph left here for Carlisle today. He is now off for two or three years at least. I hope he will return all right. I feel as if it will be an interesting journey to him. There is a great spirit of travel and adventure in this Country now. The country is so immense, so wonderful in its resources, so wild, and yet all under one government, and filled with Rail Roads, even through its wildest regions, that people desire to see it.

October 13: Tuesday.

We have heard from Joseph several times since he left for the West. We have had one letter from Chicago, three from Omaha, & last evening, one from Omaha, that will be the last till he writes from Fort Steele. Summary: "Left Carlisle 4 P.M. Wednesday Sep. 30<sup>th</sup>, reached Chicago next day, reached Omaha on Saturday evening, or Sunday morning, I forgot which. October 7<sup>th</sup>, he wrote to us that on that day at 4 ½ P.M.. he would "launch out again for another flight of 700 miles and hope to arrive safely on Friday at Fort Steele near Benton. The further I go the finer and more luxurious I find the cars. I took a sleeping car today as far as Cheyenne 516 miles. I expect to find Captain Egon & wife in the cars today; they go to near the same place." That letter we rec'd. yesterday.

October 16: Friday.

We rec'd. a letter from Joseph yesterday, from Fort Steele. He had a pleasant ride from Omaha, in beautiful cars. There are 5 companies infantry and one company cavalry there. There is an "acting Assistant Surgeon" to aid Joseph, who is the chief there. He describes the country there to be bleak and sterile as far as the eye can see. It is a good mile above the sea, on the Rocky-Mountains. He speaks of there being many pleasant officers & their families there, and of a good outside practice, which will likely

be very profitable. Fort Steele is near to where the Union Pacific Rail Road crosses the North Fork of the Platte River.

October 22: Thursday.

A letter from Joseph. [He is] delighted with the wild region about him. There are in the Fort five companies of infantry and one company of cavalry.

October 27: Tuesday.

Rec'd. a letter from Joseph. In it he says, "As I write I hear the Cars, come thundering down the road and across the bridge. They pass here both going and coming after dark, so that we cannot see them, and on their side, they lose the sight of our beautiful post." What a strange scene! A train of cars thundering along on the Rocky Mountains 6000 feet above tide-water, 500 or 700 miles from civilized society, save this fort of 700 men who are there to keep roving bands of Indians from destroying the Road. He says General Stephenson has just ridden up to the door of his tent, and handed him a head and antlers of one of the black tailed Deer, which he had shot on a hunting expedition, from which he was just returned, and which he had carried on horseback 25 miles.

We have had a young color'd. lady, seamstress, here from Philad. for nearly two weeks. Miss Mary Davis, daughter of Robert Davis, Barber, 10<sup>th</sup> & Race, making dresses for Susan & Frannie, for the wedding. She is an elegant seamstress, has made a great many dresses. Mother, Susan & Frannie sewed continuously with her. They have done a great work, or rather they have worked very diligently during the time. I have been practicing, and Mary [is] going to school. Follen [is] going daily to Philad. in the 8 o'clock train, returning in the 4 ½ P.M. Richard Foulke is in the office trying to study, but it is up-hill business. The result of being brought up in idleness.

November 2: Monday..

We rec'd. a letter from Joseph this morning. There was an attack by Indians 12 miles from them, and they were prepared to go to the aid of the whites, when word was rec'd. that the Indians had left, after killing four whites. So Joseph did not get to see an Indian fight that time, or rather he was saved from seeing it. Mother & Susan went to the City today to look at Furniture, and have not yet returned. Joseph speaks cheerily of his situation. He gives an account of a trip that he took with several officers and ladies to the top of one of the Rocky Mountains, or peaks, about five miles away. The sublimity of the view exceeded anything he had ever seen, by far. Marcus & Richard have been in the office, trying to study. How the latter made out I don't know. Not much I presume. The former can study well enough.

November 26: Thursday..

Susan was married to Jaywood Lukens of Conshohocken today at 11 A.M. There was quite a large company of friends, or rather of the members of both families. After the ceremony and partaking of refreshments, they went to Philad. in a carriage, and that evening [went] to New York.

The day before Susan's marriage I rec'd. a Commission from Governor Gearey [sic], as one of three Commissioners, appointed by him to attend a convention or

delegates or commissioners from other states, & Canada, to suggest measures to prevent the spread of the Texas-Cattle-Disease. I left at 8 ½ on Sunday night, 29<sup>th</sup> of November, took the Conshohocken train to Philad. at 9 o'clock, & the Pittsburgh train at midnight at West Philad., took a sleeping car, and did not know much more of what was passing in the world, till I awakened near daylight and found myself whiling along by the Juniata River, reached Altoona to breakfast at 9 A.M. on Monday. There I met my companions in voyage, Mr. Edward C. Humes, banker of Bellefonte, and A. Boyd Hamilton, President of the Pa. Agricultural Society. At Pittsburgh we took the road by Steubenville to Indiannapolis [sic], where we arrived, after another night spent in the sleeping car, at 9 A.M. on Tuesday. Here we were delayed till 1 P.M., which time we occupied in visiting the Public Buildings, the Governor, &c. About noon we left for Lafayette, a distance of 90 miles. In the Cars a man came to me & introduced himself, John Sidell, one of the two men who brot the Texas last summer to the neighborhood of Polona, where all the native cattle afterwards died. We had an interesting conversation with him, in the midst of which, and about 15 miles from Lafayette, I was attacked by palpitations of the Heart. I laid down as well as I could till we arrived at Lafayette, where I took a bed, and in half an hour or so I was relieved. But I had lost sleep & was very weary, so I laid still till dark. About 8 P.[M.] we started for Springfield. I slept well, and at daylight, heard the man in charge of the sleeping cars cry out Passengers for Springfield. We were soon up, and then what a sight!! The long thought of prairie, on every side, one vast expanse, some of it in its native unbroken state. It was a charming sight. The sun came boldly up and added to the magnificence of the scene. At 8 A.M. we arrived, went to the Leland house, where we found nearly all the Delegates. They had organized in the State House the day before, at 10 A.M. On our having arrived, Mr. Humes was added to the Committee of one from each state," to present Resolutions. Mr. Hamilton, made one of the Vice Presidents, and myself appointed on the Committee, composed primarily of physicians, to give a name to the Disease.

December 2: Wednesday.

Arrived at Springfield at 8 A.M., as already stated. Convention met at 10 A.M. Had a spirited session till 2. Met again at 7, cont'd. till 10. Between session visited the foundation of the new Capitol, which is to cost 3,000,000 Dollars. Also visited the home [of] Lincoln, where we were most cordially received by Mrs. Tilton and her sister in law. We wrote in his book, at his own desk & book case. Stood by his breakfast table and saw his bed, in a downstairs chamber, where he always slept. It is a two story frame house. You enter a small entry. On the left is the parlor, which communicates by folding doors with the small library, which communicates with the dining or breakfast room by a small door, and this adjoins and is behind the bedroom, which is at the right hand as you enter at the front door.

December 3: Thursday.

On this day at one P.M. we left Springfield and rode in the "police cars" to Chicago where we arrive at about 7 o'clock. It was a very pleasant afternoon and we had a most splendid view of the Prairie, and to perfect it, as the darkness closed around us when perhaps forty or fifty miles from Chicago, we had a view of a "Prairie Fire." We quartered at the "Sherman House," a splendid hotel.

December 4: Friday.

Ground cured with snow. Snowing & blowing wildly. Some of our party declined to go out. Dr. Snow of Rhode Island, Dr. Clendennen of Cincinnati, Mr. Enny [sic], Editor of the "Prairie Farmer," myself, went to the great "Pork Packing" establishment of Kent & Co. We saw the whole process, 1500 hogs and 200 Texas steers are killed daily in that single place. It was an interesting sight. There are 4 such establishments in Chicago, and Cincinnati does even a larger trade of the Farm Rind.

December 5: Saturday.

At 8 A.M. left for Pittsburgh, a distance of 486 miles. A beautiful day, but ground covered with snow. Pleasant ride till night closed upon us above crestline. We reached Pittsburgh[h] at 2 on Sunday morning. Sat up the whole way. Excessively tired. Went to bed at the Depot Hotel. Slept well until 9 A.M. Took breakfast and left for home, at 1 ½ P.M., took the sleeping car at Altoona and slept soundly till 6 A.M. Monday morning, when we left the cars and went to James Yocum's, where we took breakfast with him and Bertha, my daughter, reached the Norristown Depot so as to take the cars, and reached home at 10 ½ A.M. That [was] an interesting trip.

December 11: Friday.

Susan & Jaywood Lukens returned from their wedding tour of two weeks, at 6 P.M., when quite a collection of friends & relatives received them, and had supper.

## 1869

February 28: Sunday.

Evening. Since writing in my late journal in the first week of the present year, things have gone on pretty much as usual. But as Susan<sup>cxliii</sup> who was married in November is at housekeeping, at Conshohocken, and Bertha<sup>cxliv</sup> in Philad., at No. 2040 Vine Street, and Tacie<sup>cxlv</sup> at Norristown at Grand-View Cottage, and Frannie<sup>cxlvi</sup> is much away visiting her sisters, and going to parties given to Susan & husband, as well as to some other parties, and Follen<sup>cxlvii</sup> is away every day at his business in Philad. as a Lawyer, and Mary<sup>cxlviii</sup> goes to school, and Joseph<sup>cxlix</sup> is Post Surgeon at Fort Steele on the Rocky Mountains on the line of the Pacific Rail Road, where it crosses the North Fork of the Platte River., we are having a very small family. The family in the kitchen, Isaac Shaw, Ann Jones, Jane Blair, and Geo. Jones color'd, is larger than ours except when Follen and Mary return in the evening

Last week Richard Foulke, who has been with me several months, so that I might prepare him for graduation, was examined. He has been so indolent, so listless, so stupid I might say, that he was wholly unfit to graduate. Next Saturday will decide his case.

I have Marcus H. Corson, my brother George's son studying with me. Anna Lukens is also a student with me. About 18 years ago my niece Sarah Adamson studied with me. She was the first female student but one in the United States. An account of her may be found in the "Galaxy" for December 1868. There is now a class of nearly 50 students at the Women's Med. College in Philad. and this winter they are admitted to the Clinical Lectures on Medicine & Surgery at the Blockley Alms House



We have not heard from Joseph for two weeks, on acc't. of snow blocking the Pacific Rail Road. He has had a great time hunting Elk, Deer & Antelopes on the Rocky Mountains this winter.

March 1: Monday.

Procrastination (now as formerly) is the thief of time. I intended to write March 1<sup>st</sup>, but put it off and now March 11<sup>th</sup> find no line written.

March 11: Thursday.

Today is the first public commencement of the Female Medical College of Philad. Formerly it was held in their college, today it will be in Concert Hall. I have a ticket, a reserved seat, sent me by Professor Ann Preston, but will not go. Frannie will go in my place. I also have an invitation to the Party at the College tonight – will not go.

Richard Foulke who was examined two weeks ago, became very uneasy for fear that he would be rejected, and his Father and himself both wrote to me to write to the Professors. I wrote to Professor Carson & Professor Henry H. Smith, stating that I had kept him to his work for nearly nine months, that he was a very moral gentlemanly man, and had some tact in midwifery & surgery, had much general knowledge, but no accuracy. We learn this week that they have passed him. On Saturday next, the commencement will take place, when he will receive his Diploma. For nine months I have had him here, trying to drive him to study, and examining him & instructing him. A lazier, idler man than he is, never went into an office, dumb too, and no regard for his own success, except that having been once rejected, he would be mortified to fail again. But the love of knowledge, the desire to fit himself for practice so that he may conscientiously perform his duties, are of no consequence to him. Well, on his parents account I am glad that he is through. On his parents account I do not say so.

“Mother” has been in town two days, paying Bills & has bought a sewing machine, Singer, for \$60.00. Frannie is just starting to the Commencement at the Female Med. College, 8 AM.

I have not been very well for several days, Dyspeptic. I must alter my diet or habits or something. Something must be wrong. I must take a new tack.

March 13: Saturday.

Yesterday was commencement day at Jefferson Med. College and today at the University. Richard C. Foulke, son of Dr. Charles Foulke & Harriet Corson his wife, who has been with me all summer, and with whom I have had much perplexity, because he was so indifferent to his studies, was one of the Graduates. Frannie, our daughter, was down to it. I was invited to the Female Med. Commencement & party but did not go. Ann Lukens, my student, tells me today that they had a delightful time. My niece Sarah Dolley was there.

It is now 9 P.M. Wife has gone to bed not very well. Frannie & Mary have also gone. Follen is at Aunt Martha Corson's. I have practiced all day, and intended to begin my report for the State Med. Soc., but postponed it on account of feeling tired. I endorsed a note for \$500 for discount in First National Bank today, for accommodation of my Son-in-law W. Cresson. He has done very well with his new Iron Store the past year, but has trusted out about \$600, which he cannot now gather for a short time, but as

he wishes to pay all dues in town and keep up stock, I think I should aid him a little. If he should not succeed in his business, I know not what he should get at.

March 26: Friday.

Aunt Martha Corson, widow of my Father's youngest brother, Amos Corson, was buried today from her home in Bristol, Bucks Co. I intended to go to the funeral, but as the morning proved very rainy, and the Cars did not leave Philad. at a convenient time, I did not go. Alan & his son E. H. Corson went.

I am not so dyspeptic as two weeks ago, but am not quite right yet. I eat very fast. I must try to correct that habit.

"Mother" (wife) is very industrious with her new sewing machine. She is continuously making it hum, making things for the girls, Bertha, Frannie, Tacie & Susan. For several days we have had no one to dinner but just "our two selves," Mary [is] at school, Frannie at Tacie's, Follen in [the] city.

Since last writing, have had several letters from Joseph. He says he has a whole month without a letter, on account of the Pacific Rail Road being blocked by snow. He writes pleasantly. Still hunting occasionally.

By the paper today we see that the Indians stopped a rail road train within 4 miles of Fort Fred'k Steele, that Lieut. Young attacked & captured many of them &c. Joseph's letter will doubtless bring the account.

April 1: Thursday.

Morning. Follen got a letter from Joseph yesterday which gave an account of Lieut. Young's attack on the Indians. It appears a body of Indians, -- [empty space] strong, attacked the wood-choppers train of wagons, and drove off six, six mule teams, the Drivers having fled and hid in the "Sage-bush," on the first view of the Indians. Lieut. Young and 30 men followed them, came up with them in Camp at 11 P.M. and at once dashed upon them, recovered all the teams & found three dead Indians on the ground after the rest had gotten away. In the darkness they could scarcely tell friend from foe. They got besides their own mules, nine ponies of the Indians and many trophies. When the troops were ordered after them, Capt. Hays & Joseph were also ordered to go with them to the place where the wagons were taken from our men, to see if any were wounded or killed, as 4 were missing. They went & found several overturned wagons & two mules. Afterward 4 men came from their hiding place in the "sage."

April 3: Saturday.

Got a letter from Joseph today. Says he does not go hunting anymore since the Indians have gotten so close to the Forte. This is a great privation; they used to go and stay all day, getting sometimes as far as thirty miles away.

April 25: Sunday.

Have a letter from Joseph in which he gives a history of four days scouting after Indians. Forty mounted men left Fort Fred. Steele, and out for four days, not a tent, the weather cold, and one of those dreadful snow storms, so well painted by Bierstadt, as occurring on the Rocky-Mountains, came on and rendered their situation fearful. Their march was over mountains, through deep ravines, long canons [canyons]. Often for

miles, the way was over mountains difficult to travel by man, yet up & down those fearful trails, where the Indians had gone, they went with their horses. Finally the snow storm obliterated all traces of the Indians, and they were compelled to return. Right glad their companions at the Fort were to see them back again. Joseph was not ordered to go, but the officers wanted him along, and he went. It was a fearful adventure.

Since writing on Apr. 3<sup>rd</sup>, I have been very busy. Have been practicing and attending to the farming, and have also attended to improvements at Penllyn. We are building a house for \$1250. Have torn down old sheds, planted many evergreens, and some other trees. Have moved Aunt Susan's (sister Susan's) things to daughter Tacie's at Norristown. Aunt Susan went to her Brother Charles Foulke, and Jesse is to go to live with Tacie. I have been also planting at home, just as I have done every spring for 36 years. For two weeks, I have had a carpenter fixing the fences & arbors, &c. I have collected in my Practice since January 1<sup>st</sup> about \$1800. So we keep going. The iron ore rent for last month brot me \$132, and yet I had but two men digging.

Last week I went to West Chester to see Dr. Townsend & Dr. Stebbins to read them my Report on Dr. Gross' declaration which I made a resolution before the State Med. Society. They were greatly pleased with it, and Townsend, who is one [who] will sign it. Dr. Price also took me to see the beautiful minerals of Mr. Jeffries, Cashier of the Bank., also to see Doctor Frank Taylor who is Teacher of their best school. I had a pleasant time. Nancy accompanied me as far as Media where she stopped to see Patty Brinton & her family. Patty was at the Depot, to meet her [and] took her up to her Father's to dinner, then her father & herself took her to see Patty's sister Jeannie (who was our dear Caroline's dearest friend) at Chadd's Ford. They staid all night, and next day, Jeannie, her husband & Pattie all came on the Rail Road with her to Philad. She got home in the evening delighted with her visit. We planted some corn yesterday, and will continue today.

April 28: Wednesday.

Yesterday I rec'd. from A. B. Hamilton, one of my Colleagues to the Springfield Cattle Convention, ninety-seven (97) Dollars for my expenses to it.

Today I have been very busy. Up at 4 ½ and very busy getting the men underway with corn planting, then practicing till 4 P.M. As I had been up part of the night before, & as Mother, her sister Becky, & daughter Frannie, then went to Jaywood Lukens on a visit, I laid down on the bed till suppertime, and very tired I was. Follen came at 6 P.M. from Philad. and told me, Dr. Dolley & Sarah would be [here] to see me in the evening. So got supper & waited but they did not come. They came to Pa. to bid their friends good bye, preparatory to a visit to Europe, where they expect to spend a year visiting Med. Schools & hospitals. It rained & they did not come.

April 29: Thursday.

"At thirty, man suspects himself a fool, knows it at forty and reforms his plans; at fifty chides his infamous delay, resolves & re-resolves, then dies the same." So it is. We resolve this & that, but forget to do them. Not long since, I resolved to write here every day. Now let me try it from today, Ap. 29<sup>th</sup>, 1869. H.C.

A glorious morning! We have had no rain of consequence for more than three weeks, until last night. This morning the ground is pretty well soaked, and is green & beautiful. Our corn is planted.

April 30: Friday.

Rose about sunrise. Found Isaac Garretson waiting for me. I had written him last evening that his son Joseph who is showing symptoms of Insanity, and who went away two weeks ago, was yesterday at Charles Adamson's. He will go after him today.

Dr. Dolley & Sarah came before dinner yesterday & staid till the 5:15 Car up. They will sail for Europe in about a week, and expect to remain a year, taking their son Charles Sumner with them. Dr. Dolley is now about 45 and Sarah a little less. We had quite a discussion about a report of mine, which is to be made to the State Medical Society, on the use of alcohol as a medicine. They cannot see how it can be dispensed with.

We had rain yesterday. It has been so dry & warm for 3 weeks that it seemed almost like a dry time in August. Faithful thus far to my resolves.

May 1: Saturday.

Morning. Rose early, before 5 o'clock, yesterday morning, practiced rapidly till 9 A.M., then took Frannie to Penllyn, to meet George with a load of trees from Brother Alan's. Staid with him to show him & aid him in planting, till noon, then drove home by one P.M. Found Dr. Richards here. After dinner had a pleasant & very interesting conversation with him on medical subjects until 4 ½ P.M. Dr. R. spent several years in Brazil where he practiced medicine. He is a very interesting man. When he first came from Brazil, he gave me a coffee tree cane, in the rough. I have not yet fixed it up.

May 2: Sunday.

Very rainy morning. I began writing, soon after breakfast, on my report for State Med. Med. Soc., but was sent for to a patient at Conshohocken at 9 o'clock. Very ill. Returned & wrote till nearly 4 P.M., when Isaac informed me of the illness of a favorite cow, whose calf was but a few hours old. She expelled her womb. I assisted N. Dutter<sup>cl</sup> in trying to restore it, but after daubing our clothes greatly, we did not succeed in restoring it. I then sent Follen for another neighbor, [a] reputed Cow Doctor.

Frannie & myself went to Jay Lukens' after supper. I visited my patient. While we were away, the Cow Doctors succeeded. I hope the cow will recover. She is a beautiful young animal, one of our raising. Spent all the evening on my report. Mother, Frannie & Follen [are] reading. Ann, the girl who has lived with us 28 years, went to church, so as to be out of the way of Jane who has a beaux in the Kitchen, and Jane says, "one can't keep company with three in a room."

May 3: Monday.

Evening. Sent for at 5 o'clock A.M. to see the wife of one of Charles William's workmen. Found Mrs. William there. [The] woman [had] not progressed far, and as it is her first labor, knew it would be tedious, so took breakfast & came home. Frannie went to Conshohocken & got my papers, then I went back and staid till 4 P.M., when I delivered the woman of a fine red-haired child. The woman had suffered greatly for

several hours, and I was desirous to deliver her, but it could not be begun till Father Moriarty, could be brought. So after getting the poor old man, who is crippled up with Rheumatism, then I did it with great ease to the woman. Came home, got supper, saw some patients, and now pretty well wearied will go to bed. Our cow is still living and is doing better than I expected she would.

May 4: Tuesday.

I found my patient of yesterday very comfortable, and my cow, too, is improving, I think. Practiced sharply till 10 o'clock, then wife & self went to Norristown, I to attend the Convention of the School Directors, who met to elect a County Superintendent, and she to visit Tacie and "do a little shopping," that great family necessity. Got home a short time before sunset. After supper visited several patients.

May 5: Wednesday.

Rose at sunrise. Took Follen to 8 o'clock Cars at Conshohocken. Visited patients till noon. Attended a meeting of the Township School Directors at Lancasterville School House, passed Bills, granted orders to all Teachers, and agreed to issue proposals for building a School House at Flourtown, or rather at Whitemarsh, in front of the old Fort where Washington was in Revolutionary times.

May 6: Thursday.

The color'd boy whom I took several years ago (about 7 years ago), a poor, weak, scrofulous, almost blind boy, now a large strong man, and who has been my farmer, left here to drive for Dr. Albert Smith of Philad. He only told me of it two days before, but I made no objection, thinking it probably that it is time he should go, as he is very slow & dilatory. At 10 o'clock, I was going to Norristown, & met with a lad about 17, brot up on a farm, but who has also worked for a time in a Livery Stable. Hired him at \$8.00 per mo. He came at noon and I am greatly pleased with him. He is skilled in cleaning horses, quick & handy at Farm-work and withal very pleasant. "The new broom sweeps clean." His name is William Bradley. While in my brother's Office at Norristown, I assisted him in a surgical operation on a lady. Just as we got through with it, he was sent for to a boy, injured at Schall's Furnace. We went up and found poor little Bradley, the young boy, who hauls ore from our quarry. He says both wheels of the wagon with 2 tons, 6 Carts of ore passed over his body. I cannot believe it. But his back pains him dreadfully and his right arm is broken, above the elbow. We brought him to Brother William's Office and gave him morpheum & also chloroform as the former did not relieve him. Then I came home & went to tell his parents. Poor little fellow. He was up at 3 o'clock this morning, wanted to haul 3 loads today.

May 7: Friday.

Sent Follen early to Norristown for young Saurman to come down & photograph our house and yard. Helen Corson & Marcus and Ellwood's wife and Miss Anna Lukens, my medical student, came over. Then there were also, wife & self, Follen & Mary & Frannie, and the servants Ann, Jane, Isaac, & the new man. He took several views & just as he was taking one, Mr. Lewis A. Lukens & his son Alan drove up & Alan came on the porch & so became one of the party.

At 11 A.M. wife, Follen & Frannie went to City. I went to see patients, and part of the afternoon was home, doing but little of value. That should be cause of sorrow. Wife did not return. I wrote on my report from dark till 11 ½ P.M. and with real satisfaction.

May 10: Monday.

The two ends of the Pacific Rail Road were joined today. There was great ringing of Bells throughout all of the principal cities and towns of the United States, North. They were brought together about 300 miles, I think, beyond Fort Fred'k. Steele where Joseph is. Every week we get one or two letters from Joseph and therefore are pretty well posted.

Since my last writing on May 7<sup>th</sup>, I have had two grand-children born. Bertha had a little girl (Frannie) born last Wednesday night about 10 o'clock, and Tacie Cresson a little son James just about a week before. Bertha was attended by Dr. James Tyson, during all of the day, and I arrived at their home, 2040 Vine Street, at 7 ½ P.M. She had been inhaling a good deal of Ether, to relieve pain. Has had much pain in the head during the morning and some of those near her thought she should be bled, but bleeding is greatly out of rise now, and as now appears Dr. Tyson had never bled anyone and so it was not done. On seeing her, I thought her face too red, but attributed it to the Ether and the exertion of labor. She said her head pained but little; her skin was moist, her pulse not much excited, so I left her without bleeding, but still a little afraid. About 10 the child was born. She was very pleasant & apparently well, and in about 20 minutes Dr. Tyson & myself went down into the dining room to talk. In a few minutes mother came down to say that Bertha did not see but half of any thing. In a moment more we were called up to see her in a convulsion. It passed off in a minute or two. Her mother who had never seen such a case, thought as the fit went off that she was dying, but I quickly got her sleeve up and bled her 25 ounces by measure. From that time she had no more fits, but all night was unconscious, would sleep for about half hour quietly, then wake and call for Aunty, Susan, Frannie, mother, &c, and insisting on rising in bed, or kicking off the clothes. I would restrain her, get mother to give her a drink of ice water, and then in a short time she would go to sleep. And so we, mother & myself, worked on the whole night. Just about sunrise, she opened her eyes and said to me, "Father can't I have a drink of cold water." I was delighted to hear her speak thus. It was the first rational talk. After getting the drink, she laid still a little spell and then smiling said, "I had forgotten the Baby." From that time she was apparently well in her mind.

May 24: Monday.

Yesterday, Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>, Mary & I went down in the one P.M. train to see her. Mother said she had been doing well. We found her pleasant. Mary & myself then took a stroll to Fair Mount, a beautiful place, thousands of people there. We came back to James', took tea & returned home by 7 ¼ P.M. train.

May 25: Tuesday.

Practiced. Went to Pennlyn [sic] at one P.M. to meet a woman who wished to rent the large house. She did not come, so got home by 4 ½ P.[M.]

The trees we planted are starting beautifully, but as three have died, I will send Isaac tomorrow with three more. Mother still in Philad.

May 26: Wednesday.

Yesterday Frannie rec'd. notice that the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals will hold a meeting today, and as she is a member and Vice President, they want her to come. I hope she will go.

June 13: Sunday.

On June 1<sup>st</sup> I went to Forrestville, Bucks County, to attend the funeral of Uncle Joshua Corson, the last of my father's brothers. He was next the youngest and was nearly ninety years old.

Uncle Amos, who was younger, had been dead for several years. There was a larger gathering of children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Coming home I stopped to see Doctor Cornell, at Hartsville, the son of my Cousin Betsey Corson, daughter of Uncle Richard Corson by his first wife. I found him agreeable, intelligent, and handsome. Married a few months since.

Last Monday night (June 7<sup>th</sup>) at 10 o'clock & 30 min., Frannie, Aunt Becky Corson & myself left West Philad. for the City of Erie, to attend the Medical Convention. Yesterday (Saturday) I got home at noon. We had a pleasant time, reached Erie, 449 miles, Tuesday at 9:30 P.M. Next day, Captain Jouett<sup>cli</sup> of the Navy, a man of noble daring during the war, & wife took us boating on the Bay, and every day of our stay Frannie & her Aunt were out sailing and fishing with them, while I was in the Convention. When on Friday at 11 o'clock I started to come home, Robert Corson (who had followed me to Erie) took his wife & Frannie to Niagara Falls. We had a splendid Convention. I had a long Report, nearly 40 pages, on a resolution condemnatory of the medical use of Alcohol Stimulants in disease, which was well received and ordered to be printed. I had a very pleasant time returning from the meeting, only that I was so weary. Dr. Joseph Parrish, Dr. Saml. Gross & others were along. They had entertained us so continuously while at Erie that we were all greatly wearied.

I have written five long letters this afternoon.

**Editors note:** At this point in the diary is pasted a newspaper clipping of a letter to the editor of *The Press*, dated Philadelphia, Feb. 11, 1869, and signed DERAS. It stated in part, "The statement which has been widely circulated that no stone marks the grave of the founder of Pennsylvania is an error. I have in my possession a photograph of Jordan's Meeting House, and the grave yard adjoining, with a number of stones upon which the names of William Penn, Isaac Penington, and Thomas Elwood, and their families appear with great distinctness."

June 16: Wednesday.

Bertha and her little daughter, scarcely four weeks old, and the nurse, came up from Philad. today, to stay with us till Monday. Little Frannie seems very well. The nurse thinks she is the great child of the age.

June 23: Wednesday.

Bertha, little Frannie & the nurse left for home this morning. James has also been up since they were here. It has done much good to Bertha to be up a few days.

June 26: Saturday.

I wrote to Joseph yesterday, and also got Follen to send him "Fremont's Journal to the Rocky Mountains," published years ago. It is a very fine work, the Botany of the region beautifully illustrated. He got it at a second-hand book store for \$1.00. It will be the very thing for Joseph who is expected to make a report of the Botany of his region. I have been reading Emerson on Prudence, this morning. What a beautiful writer he is.

July 4: Sunday.

Beautiful morning. Follen went at 4 o'clock to Norristown to get our big carriage. It has been done up and we want to bring Bertha up from the Cars this morning. At 10 o'clock she & James & little Frannie were brought up by Follen & Frannie, with two black persons.

During the past week I wrote letter to Doctors Condie, Halberstadt,<sup>clii</sup> Carpenter,<sup>cliii</sup> Henry St. Clair Ash, Philad., Rutherford of Harrisburg, King<sup>cliv</sup> of Washington & Dr. Stephen Rogers, N. York. Dr. Halberstadt of Pottsville was expelled from the Schuylkill Co. Med. Soc., and from that, he was also expelled from the State Society. He made me a visit last week to see if he could take an appeal. As I am the Chairman of the Censors for this district, I have written the others in various places in relation to it. With King of Washington I have a discussion on the subject of his pamphlet, "On Ligation of Funis."<sup>clv</sup> To Dr. Stephen Rogers I wrote thanking him for his flattering review of my "Food for Infants."

5 P.M. Follen has this moment handed me a funeral notice of the death & burial of Annie Dewees, daughter of William H. Dewees of Hickorytown. She was at first my patient, but they got a great desire to have Dr. Lewis Read, my nephew to attend her, as he is very much in favor of giving stimulants. Whiskey and raw meat, which are now very popular with many young physicians, and many old ones too, I may say. As I disapprove of it, I left the case many months ago. She will be buried Tuesday, July 6<sup>th</sup> at Union Church, Whitemarsh.

Got a letter from Joseph on Saturday, yesterday. Is well, &c, thinks he will probably get a leave of absence for four months this fall. Hope he will. He has been away this last time nearly nine months. In the Army about 20 months.

**Editor's note:** The July 4<sup>th</sup> entries also contain a pasted newspaper clipping titled *Ralph Waldo Emerson on Woman's Suffrage*, in which the Boston *Post* "gives the subjoined report of Ralph Waldo Emerson's remarks at the anniversary meeting of the New England Woman's Suffrage Association in that city very recently."

July 11: Sunday.

6 P.M. Have just been dressing a disgusting sore leg on Michael Daniels. Michael went to school at the time when I did when quite young. Married early, got to drinking, got hurt, &c. Is now old, crippled & has this "Drunkard sore leg," as it is called. Poor Fellow! He has to make a living by hauling vegetable. It is hard for him.



As I was out once in the night , I disliked to get up, but as I had desired him to come out today at that time, I could not bear to send him away or keep him waiting. I think I will go in the cars, to see Sister Mary this morning. I visited a good many patients yesterday, so that I need not do much today. George Davis, opposite Conshohocken must be seen, and then I will take the Reading Cars. Will return to Davis' at 6 P.M.

July 18: Sunday.

Evening 9 o'clock. Went this morning to Montgomery Square to see Rachel Miller, a distant relative of mine, an old lady 78 years last March, I think she said. Alan & myself have been paying 52 Dols. per year to keep her out of the Poor House for some years. She is the last of the William Miller family of whom I take note in the Genealogy on my mother's side. She seemed glad to see me. She was clean and nice, though she never allows water to touch her body, the woman, Mrs. White, says. Rachel was always rather dirty and lazy, but considered herself smart. I paid the woman \$30.00 & gave Rachel \$2.00. Was at home at ¼ after 12 noon.

Last Thursday my wife & daughter Susan & her husband Jaywood Lukens went to the Sea-Shore at Atlantic City. Several friends accompanied them, and yesterday my son Follen & his sister Frannie & Robert R. Corson & his wife went down. But she is a great house keeper. She is waiting now for 10 o'clock to come when it will be time for Jane Blair's beaux to go home. We don't allow him to stay longer,

I have been very busy the past week in practice, and in writing letters to the medical censors, to meet at the College of Physicians in Philad. to consider an "Appeal" from Dr. A. H. Halberstadt of Pottsville from the action of the Schuylkill Co. Med. Soc. As I am the Chairman, it devolved on me to call the censors & notify all parties.

I wrote to Joseph again today. Had a letter from him on Thursday. Pretty tired, I think, of his present place. Benjamin Boyer (Honorable) came to see me this evening in relation to John Righter's will. Some of the children think of breaking it, if they can, & have him employed to do it.

July 28: Wednesday.

Wife returned from the Sea-Shore yesterday, has had a pleasant time. Susan & husband also returned with her. I have about four acres of my heavy oats down, and the weather is poor for drying it. My man, too, is going away today. But still I will not be disheartened.. A strong will to succeed and to do all that is necessary for success will generally accomplish it.

I have had a great many letters since last writing and have written a great many.

Called to breakfast. But before I go let me resolve to (sneezed nine times violently) go steadily forward with good works.

August 2: Monday.

Yesterday I went by myself to see Sister Mary Adamson, now in her 77<sup>th</sup> year, I think. She has been quite poorly for some weeks, but I found her up and about, pleasant as ever. Her son, Consul at Honolulu [sic] in the Sandwich Islands, and lately returned from Pernambuco where he was Consul for seven years, has been at home off & on for three months, but started a little more than a week ago, for his new place, Honolulu [sic], and on Saturday it was announced in the Philad. papers that he had arrived safely at San

Fransisco, via the great Pacific Rail Road. When he went to South America seven years ago it was thought his mother would never see him again, but she did, and possibly may again. I got home by six o'clock, visited a patient.

Our son-in-law James Yocum [sic] has not been well for several weeks, a slight bowel complaint. These two days [he] has been in bed here, but not greatly amiss. He has been taking cathartic med. yesterday, and I hope will be better today.

Our children, Frannie & Clara Lukens being the managers, had a great Pic-Nic [sic] at the old house at Penllyn Saturday. About 40 persons there, a pleasant time. The Corsons, Lukens, Seabolds, Tysons, Whartons, Misses Farmann, Charley Clarke, Mr. Hagy, Uncle Jesse, &c, &c, &c.

Had a letter from Joseph on Saturday last. He sent me a small moss agate from the Rocky Mountains. [He] was just ready to start to Fort Fetterman 115 miles through an unbroken country. An expedition was being sent & he was desirous to go if he could go under "orders."

August 5: Thursday.

James Yocum [sic] is still poorly, came down a short time last evening, and took supper, but had pain again before bedtime.

Fine rain last night. I come home at 2 o'clock in the midst of it, having been out two hours with an obstetric case. Not funny any more to be called at night to such cases.

August 7: Saturday.

At 5 o'clock and 8 minutes P.M., we expect the Eclipse of the Sun. Great preparations have been made by Philosophers and men of science to take observations. Burlington, Iowa, Springfield, Illinois & other points have been selected as proper places for observation. As we will have much on the subject in Monday's papers, I will await the arrival of them. At present, 5 o'clock, we have Charles Clark [sic], one of the Editors of the Evening Bulletin, Aunt Emily, Nan Bacon, Helen Corson, Anna Churchman and Ida Corson here with their pieces of color'd glass, awaiting the moment. 8 P.M., it came true to time, and though it was not so very dark. The appearance was most peculiar. As we will have numerous accounts on Monday, I wait.

In Joseph's last letter on Thursday he said he was just packing up to go to Fort Fetterman, with two officers and 35 mounted & armed men. It is about 130 to 150 miles through an unbroken wilderness. They will stay there a day or two and return by Sweet Water, where rich silver & gold mines are being opened. He will write from Fort Fetterman, It is exposing & laborious to travel there.

August 18: Wednesday.

Tuesday I got a letter yesterday from Joseph. Says they are on their way back from Fort Fetterman, and within 48 miles of Fort Steele. They were at a station on the U.P.R.R., to which they have gone to send home one of the officers who fell from his horse. They have had a rough ride 145 miles to Fetterman through an untravelled country.

I am practicing steadily; have an invitation to attend the laying [of] the Corner Stone of the Northern State Lunatic Hospital at Danville, Pa., on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Gov. Geary will lay the stone & Dr. Ray deliver the address.<sup>clvi</sup> I would like to go, but it is about 200 miles and I could do no good. It would be pleasant though to meet with those old friends.

On Thursday I am expected to go to the Eastern Agricultural Farm, to make one of the Committee to examine and report on ploughs. It has a very ram-like look, and I shall perhaps not get off.

August 20: Friday.

Went to Philad. on the evening of Wednesday. Staid all night at C. Bacon's. Next morning took the Cars to West Grove, arrived there at 10 P.M.. Hundreds of farmers got on the train as we went from station to station. At West Grove station a wagon was in waiting for me. But the man did not know me, nor I any one. I hung behind as the crowd wore off in haste for the farm a mile away. A man approached me while there was still a crowd there, and asked me if I knew a Doctor from Bucks Co., expected there. I told him he had the man but he was from Montgy. Co. All right, he said, then hallowed to another man with a carriage, I have him, you take somebody else. As he said he had room for one beside me, I called Dr. Paschall Morris to go with me, and we were soon on the ground. Well! There was a great crowd of the best Farmers of Del., Chester, Bucks, &c. The Committee-men were called together, and thirty one plows contested for supremacy. The points of merit were Ease of Draught, depth of furrow, efficient pulverization, busying of trash, &c. &c. The day was very warm, but clouds obscured the sun until noon. I was for a time engaged in my duties of examining the work of the ploughs. It was an arduous task and as I could not stay long enough to judge of all of them, I did not serve on the Committee after dinner. I was treated with great consideration, given the first place at the dinner table, introduced to many farmers, all of whom spoke highly, of the Essays on Pleuro-pneumonia, and were truly grateful for the interest which I had taken in it, and the information I had communicated. I had also a very pleasant time with Doctors Darlington and Doctor Price. Arrived at home at 11 P.M. pretty tired but well pleased with the events of the day.

August 26: Thursday.

A letter from Joseph describes some incidents of his trip to Fetterman & back again. Got interesting letter from W. H. Johnson & others.

August 29: Sunday.

W. Cresson sent for me last evening. Ellwood has been attending him all day, for violent colon. I went up and staid a short time, but as he seemed pretty well, I came home.

August 30: Monday.

11 P.M.. I have just returned from Will Cresson, where I went at sunset. He had been very poorly for hours, but Ellwood had him leeched and he seemed relieved, but it came on at 6 P.M. and before 10, I was compelled to give him two grains of Sulph. Morph. I have been with him for several hours, and Ellwood will stay all night.

August 31: Tuesday.

6 P.M. Got awake at one o'clock last night, and being weary about Will, went to see him. He was easy and I returned by 3. At 5 this morning was called to C. Styer's and have been steadily engaged ever since. Saw W. Cresson at 3. Found him pretty easy, pulse 112, &c.

Wife was bustling about last evening to see that Ann and Jane were getting the supper right (as we had Bertha & her husband, Susan & her husband, Uncle Robert Corson and Aunt Becky, Dr. Richard Foulke & his brother "Tom" all here, and Aunt Emily Bacon) when her foot turned sideways, going down the cellar, slips and she fell to the bottom, hurting herself greatly. We were greatly frightened, for she groaned greatly, and seemed terribly shocked, faint & pale and unable to use one leg at all; we got her up and onto a sofa. When paining, Morphine, &c., &c. restored her to somewhat of a comfortable condition in about half an hour. When I reached home from Tacie's at midnight, she was sleeping for a short time. Today she is unable to sit up in bed, and has suffered considerably in both ankles, though one is greatly hurt.

September 1: Wednesday.

Evening. I was called while at breakfast to see daughter Bertha, at Mr. Yocom's [sic] on Sandy Hill, two miles from here. I found her very ill though she had been here in the evening, gay and happy, though with slight symptoms of diarrhea. She seemed to scarcely know me, pulse 144 per minute, her eyelids twitching & jerking and her countenance weary and gloomy. I bled her 12 ounces, gave her a dose of oil and four drops Norwood's Tinct. verat. viride<sup>clviii</sup>; then sent for Brother William. He came at 9 o'clock and we concluded to have, the ice which I had applied to head, to be cont'd. as well as the vat. and oil, till purging should take place. I visited her 5 times through the day. The bleeding took the pulse down 24 beats per minute. She improved gradually, but as soon as the oil operated, at 6 P.M., a happy change took place. Pulse came to 100, skin cooled. She nursed her child, talked pleasantly, &c. Now for the cause of this illness. She had a little griping on Tuesday noon & took a teaspoonful of Jamaica Ginger. Then came to see us in the evening. There was a great change in the air, and when they started home, it was very cool and breezy, but she says she was not cold. At 2 at night she felt pain & took a teaspoonful of Tinct. of Jamaica Ginger, then at 3, also at 5, and also took about 20 drops of Laudanum. Now I attribute this excited condition of [the] brain to the stimulant effects of the Ginger. The dose to one unused to it is only a few drops. She took in all a large half ounce. So betwixt her & William Cresson, and Mother and my other patients, I had a very busy day of it. I hope they will all be better tomorrow. Uncle Robert & Aunt Becky, as the children call them, are staying up here, and Aunt Becky went today to stay with Bertha, which was a great comfort, though nobody could be kinder than her father-in-law's family.

September 5: Sunday.

The last two days have been very busy. There is a great drought in the land. The roads are very dusty, & until last Thursday the weather was hot, then there was a sudden change, and I had to put on thick clothes. For two nights the Thermometer was at 44 in the morning. I was greatly weary yesterday and had [a] headache and bowel complaint, but I slept finely last night, and now that I am up and dressed, feel pretty fair

again.

Bayard Taylor's Dedication Ode for the National Cemetery at Gettysburg, lying here loose in my book, I took it up to read. I read it hastily when it first appeared, but I did not understand it at all. Now I have read it carefully and began to realize its beauties. I do not believe it was at all understood by one in a hundred who read it.

Our house has been pretty full of company now for a few weeks, but last night all went away but Bertha & her nurse for the child. Wife is still unable to walk, from the injury of this day [last] week.

**Editor's note:** At this point in the diary a three column newspaper clipping is pasted, titled "MISS ANNA DICKINSON AT THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC- NOTHING UNREASONABLE." Doctor Corson noted the following about it: "There is so much of truth in this eloquent and powerful defense of women's and advocacy of their right to vote that I want to preserve it here for the children."

The following two pages of the diary are filled with newspaper clippings titled THE COUNTESS GUICCIOLI. A PORTRAIT OF BYRON'S LOVE, Letter of Father Hyacinthe, The Ecumenical Council and its component Parts, and DEDICATION ODE: THE NATIONAL CEMETERY AT GETTYSBURG.

September 26: Sunday.

Last week we heard from Joseph twice, first an ordinary letter, 2<sup>nd</sup> a special letter of only a few lines to let me know that Lieut. Spencer had just returned from a fight, a desperate fight with the Indians, 55 miles from the Fort, and had lost two men. And now a new expedition was just about to start and that he, Joseph, was going along, and if he should not write for a few days, we should not mind it, as he would have no opportunity perhaps.

Last week we had an Exhibition (agricultural) for three days. I attended two of them. There were a great many people. The weather was very fine, and all seemed to enjoy themselves.

Wife's foot is getting better, William Cresson is still very poorly. I go every day to see him. There is a terrible rain storm today, and I have been out since early morning.

October 9: Saturday.

Friday 8<sup>th</sup>, my 65<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Though I have been thinking of my 65<sup>th</sup> Birth-Day for several days, I got over without my once thinking about it, until this (Saturday) morning. It was because of business Bertha came up, and Frannie who had been down two days, and brought the baby, little Frannie, at 9 o'clock, and I was there to bring them up from Conshohocken. Afterwards I practiced much. Well, when I was young, I never expected to live so long, and now life seems even pleasanter, almost, than when young. I enjoy the beauties of Nature much more. But it must soon be over now, a few years at most. Well! It is the usual course of things, and I will not fret about it. If it be as some say that we will recognize our Friends in another world, or another stage of existence, we will certainly be filled for existence there, and it will have its enjoyments. If not, if we end existence with this life, then interminable ages will be as but an hour's sleep. In the strong conviction that all will be in accordance with the great laws which

regulate the universe of matter and mind , I cheerfully submit. Ages of which no man knoweth the beginning passed before I was, and I suffered not. Just this instant a small but lively little insect skipped past my pen over the white sheet. How it darts and skips from side to side as if frightened. How tiny it is and yet how smart, and sensitive, now down the page, now up, now over the edge, now coming back again, stopping, turning the head, raising it, apparently listening. What thoughts agitate the little creature, I would like to know. Has it strayed from home. Is it a young explorer, or a vidette<sup>clviii</sup>, Bayard Taylor, or a Humboldt? It is gone now, and probably the history of this mornings exploration (which in its brief life will answer to years of ours) is already by insect telegraph, circulated in its tiny dominions, and the explorer may now be receiving the plaudits of his fellow countrymen. Such is Life! and more than that. In their archives are preserved the records of travel and the history of those terrible monsters which he has discovered. So I have part in that record. And what will it avail me to be mentioned in the records of those insects. Just as much as it does Washington or Lincoln to be in the mouth of millions of their Countrymen daily.

Mother went down with Bertha this Saturday evening and Mary too. So I am here alone with Frannie & Follen, and the Servants, Ann Jones who has been faithfully laboring for us about 27 or 28 years, Jane Blair, a young woman whom we have had perhaps 10 years. She came when quite young, and John, the color'd man, who has been with us about 2 months, having taken the place of Isaac Shaw who was with us 27 years & George Jones who had been with us about 10. John is better for me than both of them. So mother & Mary will stay with James & Bertha a few days.

October 10: Sunday.

Very rainy. I went to Hicksite Meeting. At home in [the] afternoon. Jaywood Lukens & Susan were here.

October 11: Monday.

Practiced a great deal today. Daughter Mary came home this evening. Mother will stay in the city a few days longer.

October 16: Saturday.

All this week I have practiced a good deal. Have also had my threshing done by the machine, 158 Bus. oats and 54 Bus. wheat. Wife still in the city with Bertha & their family. W. Cresson, Tacie's husband, is still getting ----- [sentence not completed].

Got a letter from Joseph today. It is now a little over a year since he left for that place. Got \$167.90 for ore rent this month, the clay and sand.

Aunt Martha as we call her, Brother George's widow, is quite poorly. I find today that she has quite a larger tumor on the left side, in the iliac region. My two students, Anna Lukens and Marcus Corson, have gone to Lectures. They will be there this winter.

I was alone last evening and again this evening I am alone. Mary is in bed.

Follen & Frannie are at Cresson's in Norristown. I have been reading and writing all the evening. Among other things, read Bucher's Sermon of last Sunday.

October 31: Sunday.

During the last two weeks, we have been very busy. The men have been getting in the corn and about 100 Bushels of apples, have made seven barrels of cider. I have practiced a good deal every day. Mother has had the house cleaned and has had painters doing the outside painting, making the house a drab color, instead of white, making the window shutters also from a green to a drab. I also have had carpenters making a new fence, along the road from the big gate to N. Dutterer's<sup>clix</sup> Follen has been daily in the city, Mary at school, and Frannie helping her mother, besides going twice to Philad., once to the Theater and once to the Opera.

Martha Corson, widow of my brother George has been quite poorly. I have discovered an enlargement in her abdomen. Today I had her make a will, and I signed as a witness. So did brother Alan.

Abby Hall and Phebe Roberts, and Sarah Williams and their brother Jesse Williams were all at the Orthodox Meeting today. The two former ones each preached twice. Very pleasant sermons they were to me, coming as they did from two dear friends, who were companions and neighbors before I was married while I lived at Jonathan Maulsby's, and who were our friends since we were married. They are all the children of Mrs. Hannah Williams, an old neighbor for so many years. I met them this evening again at Martha's. They expect to come to see us tomorrow.

I is now just 10 P.M.. Frannie & self have written several letters and as she is now just fixing the stoves for the night, we will retire. "God bless us all, every one."

November 4: Thursday.

It is eleven o'clock and all [are] in bed. Even Jane has gotten rid of her beau, and retired. She is to be married on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Yesterday we attended the funeral of Cousin Rebecca George, as wife calls her. She was buried from her home near Hestonville, buried at Merion Meeting, the old Meeting. Wife, self, Susan & Follen were there.

**Editor's note:** A newspaper clipping pasted on the page tells of a resolution passed by the *Select and Common Councils of the City of Philadelphia* to honor the deceased Miss Rebecca George and expressing thanks for the generous gift "of nearly one hundred acres of the most beautiful portion of Fairmount Park."

Yesterday week, the women students from the Woman's Medical College in Philad., to the number of about 30 attended the Medical and Surgical clinics at the Pennsylvania Hospital. It was known that they were coming, and so the male students, perhaps 250 in number, collected there early, and [as] soon as the ladies appeared, commenced to hoot, shout, hiss and groan, and make insulting remarks, and cont'd. it spite of the rebukes & orders of one of the managers, and after the lectures were over, ranged themselves along the path or walk in the Hospital yard, compelling the Ladies to take the cart-path, then followed them into the street insulting them & creating a great noise.

That evening an editorial appeared in the Evening Bulletin, denouncing the male students as ruffians and black-guards, and giving a history of the affair. Next day every paper in the city poured down its wrath on their heads, and every day of the week brought

fresh anathemas from every paper until they were humbled. The Professors of the Colleges, who had really connived at this began to be alarmed for the honor of their schools.

Yesterday 39 Ladies appeared in their seats and although the students had held meetings and passed resolutions that they would not attend, about 140 of them came and behaved like subdued gentlemen. Never was there a stiller crowd. So the ladies have triumphed, and I am rejoiced.

**Editor's note:** Pasted in the diary are clippings from "THE CITY" section of the November 2, 1869, issue of *The Press*. Three columns are devoted to "The Students' Disgrace," and one column to "MEN EMINENT IN RELIGIOUS HISTORY." Among the many details in the article is also mentioned that the first lecture was by Doctor William Hunt, on Surgery, and that he refused to acknowledge the female students, beginning his lecture by saying "Gentlemen!" and ignoring the presence of the female students. The second lecture was by Dr. Da Costa, on the Practice of Medicine. "He began without the preface of a compliment, and it may be creditable that he declined then and there to employ the word 'gentlemen,' having no doubt, a proper regard for the appropriate use of terms."

December 14: Tuesday

Since the above was written, all the Professors of University (Med. Department) & Jefferson Med. College met & passed a preamble & resolutions of which see copy on next page. They attempt by a pretence of opposition to mixed clinics, & by asking the Hospital Managers to throw on the Ladies the imputation of being desirous to see operations not fit for them; and also by having separate clinics to shove them out of it altogether by refusing to lecture to them. Thus far the managers have cont'd. to have the clinics as usual, and the rebellious students are coming back. How it will end we will see.

December 25: Saturday.

Christmas Day. It is now more than a month since the above action of the Professors in which they advise the students to stay away from the clinics. But alas! For the dignity, they have been compelled to give way. The managers remained firm and now the students are crowding to the clinics again. The Ladies still continue to go.

It is just a month since I wrote last, save about the Women Doctors. In that time much has happened in the usual way. I have practiced steadily. Follen has gone daily to the city, Mary to school, Mother & Frannie have managed the home, done a heap of sewing, paid some visits, &c., &c. Jane was married on the 27<sup>th</sup>, and John, the color'd man, John Phillips is his name, has done his work well. Our son Joseph, too, has had a change. He has been ordered to Fort Omaha, or rather Omaha Barracks. Yesterday we rec'd. a letter from him, stating that he had just arrived, on the 9<sup>th</sup> I suppose, and would be nicely fixed in a day or two. Had met many officers with whom he was acquainted. A splendid Garrison there, it being the Head Quarters of that Department. Tacy & her husband, Susan & her husband, Bertha & her husband are all well.



**Editor's note:** Pasted at the end of this page is a poem by James Russell Lowell and one listing the names assumed by various authors, NOMMES DE PLUME.

The weather is very moderate, not even freezing today. I practiced until noon, and paid a visit to "Aunt Martha," Brother George Corson's widow. She is able still to be up and down stairs a few hours daily, and suffers a good deal and emaciates much. She has an enlargement on the left side of the abdomen (internally), great constipation, much pain, if not relieved by Morpheum, &c. Dr. Maulsby, her brother, was up yesterday to see her. I think her disease must be a malignant one, or rather considered one, but cannot say whether it is located in ovaria [sic] or the bowel, or uterus. My opinion is that it springs from the mesenteric glands and presses on the bowel, causing constipation.

Before 5 P.M. Susan, Tacie & Bertha and their husbands & children (Tacie has two & Bertha one) arrived. Each brot presents for us. Follen, Frannie & Mary were at home, and so we had all our family here save Joseph who is at Omaha, and Edward and Caroline whose places have been vacant for years, and who repose at Laurel-Hill, where ere long I at least must soon join them.

We spent a very happy evening, and before 10 o'clock, Susan & Tacie & their families left for home. Bertha & husband staid. I am now past 65 years of age.

## 1870

January 31: Monday.

Evening. The weather has been unusually mild all this winter. It has not frozen the past two weeks. I have done much practice in the past month. "Aunt Martha" has suffered much & cannot now sit up. I have written a great many letters, a few articles for newspapers, &c., &c. So this month will be over in a couple of hours more. Now 10' of 11 o'clock, I take Beecher's Sermons. Read one every week. They are excellent, except a little too Orthodox.

February 1: Tuesday.

I have practiced much today. Got a letter from Joseph

**Editor's note:** On the following page of the diary is pasted a three column newspaper article titled, *THE "CHRISTIAN" JEW*. Its introductory paragraph reads, "We commend to the careful consideration of readers of every sect and faith, the following synopsis of a sermon, delivered by the Rev. Dr. Lilienthal, at the Jewish Temple in Cincinnati, on Christmas morning. The sentiments uttered by the reverend gentleman are well worth embalming in the hearts and memories of all, characterized as they are by the broadest liberality, the most progressive humanity, and the most practical philosophy. Whether Christian or Jew it matters little – such men as Dr. Lilienthal belong to the world at large. Being controlled by no ridiculous dogma, fettered by no bigoted creed, their mission is to inspire and to vitalize Humanity everywhere."

February 14: Monday.

Last Friday, the eleventh of February, "Aunt Martha," as all called her, was

buried in the yard attached to the Orthodox Friends Meeting Home at Plymouth. It was sad indeed to part with her. She was so kind to all her children, and indeed to anybody that she came in contact with, that everybody loved her. I attended her for several months, with sharing belief that she had a cancer of the Bowel (the Colon). She emaciated to the last degree, kept her in bed only about two weeks. Her Brother, Dr. George Maulsby, U.S. Navy, also saw her with me a few times. After her death, assisted by my niece Hannah Schultz, I quietly made an examination of the body, and found the cancer of the bowel just where it passed over the promontory of the sacrum, also a mass of cancerous lumps appearing like small glands, each as large as a shell-beechnut, at the root of the Mesentery, also cancerous nodules large as hulled Walnuts all over the surface of the liver, looking almost as if the surface of the liver had whole, round flint stones stuck in it. While the mass of [the] large lobe of the liver was an almost cancerous mass, just like a lump of fallow. I sent portions of the liver to Dr. James C. Tyson (my friend) who subjected them to the Microscope & pronounced them all malignant cancers.

March 3: Thursday.

Have a fixed purpose to pursue a certain course of study & recreation. Don't know how I will succeed.

March 13: Sunday.

Anna Lukens & 13 other Ladies received the Medical Diplomas yesterday at Musical Fund Hall. I was invited a few days ago by Doctor Ann Preston to a seat on the Platform with the Corporators & Professors. So I passed in procession to the platform. Dr. Preston delivered the Address. There was a large concourse of people, and everything passed off well. Anna rec'd. 69 votes out of 70, the highest number ever reached by a pupil. Today James Yocom & Bertha spent the day here. Bertha & her child came yesterday. I read in Nation & Beecher's last weeks sermon this morning. It snowed & sleeted so badly that I did not go out.

On Friday evening 11<sup>th</sup> I attended a graduation party at Dr. Henry H. Smith's. Came home on the 10 P.M. Car.

March 25: Friday.

Reuben Lukens, Anna's Father, was buried today. Met at the house at 10 ½ A.M., went to Laurel Hill. Frannie & Mother went with me to the home, then we returned home before the funeral got under way, and Mother gave place to little Mary. John, the man, drove us and we had a comfortable time of it in the big carriage, but I was very weary when we got back at 5 P.M. Went to bed early & now, Saturday morning, am feeling well again.

We hear regularly every week from Joseph. He is well, busy & full of enjoyment. This week he writes us that the celebrated Ole Bull,<sup>clx</sup> the great musician, has been staying with him in the Garrison. He seems delighted with him. Joseph & two of the officers of the Garrison were selected as a Committee to receive subscription for the Norwegian National Monument, being gotten up by Ole Bull, namely, a Light House. That would indeed be a National Monument.

April 7: Thursday.

9 P.M. [Have] just written to Joseph and sent it by mail with Mother's letter. All gone to bed but myself. I will now write an Article for the Newspaper, to influence the people in relation to the location of the Alms House soon to be built.

I have cut from the "*Norristown Herald & Free Press*" the Proclamation by President Grant, of the "Ratification of the fifteenth (15) Amendment. This is the accomplishment of the greatest event of the Century. The liberation from bondage of 4,000,000 of Slaves, and their admission to all the rights and privileges of American citizens. Oh what a change! Everywhere the colored people are preparing to celebrate the event by grand Convocations and Jubilees on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of the present month, April. In the places where they have voted this week for Municipal officers, they have stood up bravely by the Republicans.

A Family Circle Poem. I have pasted here this beautiful poem that it might be seen some future time and awaken in the breast of the reader the same thrilling and pleasant emotions that have been produced in me. April 7<sup>th</sup>, 10 P.M. Hiram Corson.

April 10: Sunday.

Morning. I have just finished reading Beecher's Sermon of last week, "Desiring & Choosing." It is a beautiful and truthful thing. What a wonderful man he is to illustrate a subject.

April 17: Sunday.

Have read Beecher's sermon of last week, aloud, "Spiritual Stumbling Blocks," wonderful man to write.

I have been suffering from a pain in my left heel since yesterday noon, or rather I had it till I went to bed, then took Morph. ½ gr. and relieved the pain, but I cannot walk on it without suffering. Jaywood Lukens & Susan here today. Bertha is up at "Father Yocom's & expects to be here tomorrow. I had trees planted last week, here & at Pennlyn [sic]. This makes the 37<sup>th</sup> year that I have planted trees every spring.

Follen still goes to the City every week day. Mary goes to school at Plymouth. Frannie aids Mother in housekeeping. We expect Joseph to get home by the first of May, to stay a couple of months.

New Resolves, Ap.17<sup>th</sup> [Here Corson restates his resolve of April 29, 1869].

April 20: Wednesday.

Last evening when Follen came home he said he had rec'd. a telegram from Joseph that he was then (3 P.), at Pittsburg[h], on his way from Omaha home. So today I went with Follen to Conshohocken that he might go on the 8 o'clock. I waited till the next came up, then till the 9 A.[M] came, then till the 11 A. came. He did not come. At 5 P. when I returned from practicing, I found him in the parlor with Mother & Frannie. He had come in the 1 ½ from Philad., had stopped with Susan, & Mr. Lewis A. Lukens being there, had kindly brot him up. Tacie & her husband (Wm. Cresson) & two children came down at 6 o'clock. Susan & her husband (Jaywood Lukens) came at 8 P.M.

Joseph has been about one year at Fort Steele & 6 months at Omaha Barracks, since he left home. He brought with him a fine box of Minerals for me, from the North Platte River, near to Fort Steele. They will add greatly to my collection.

June 11: Saturday.

Joseph left for Carlisle this morning, where he wishes to stay over Sunday, to visit his old friend, Dr. Wright and family, and then leave for St. Louis on Monday morning, where he will lie over one day & then resume his journey to Omaha, which he desires to reach by the 17<sup>th</sup> as his leave of 60 days will then terminate, and he hopes to be promptly at his Post.

During the time he has been at home, I have not made one entry. But he has had a pleasant time visiting & being visited, having parties made for him, &c., &c. He also attended to my practice a good deal. In May his brother & myself went to the American Medical Association, convened at Washington City, and while there made a pleasant trip to Mount Vernon, The "Soldiers Home," &c., &c. Col. Thomas & Lady took us to the Home in their carriage. Last week, too, I attended the "Pa. Medical Society" in Philad., and he attended to all my practice.

Meeting of Medical Society of Pa. 1870

Doctor Halberstadt's case.

At the meeting in Philad. last week, I had quite an exciting time. Last summer Doctor A. H. Halberstadt of Pottsville, who had been very unjustly expelled from the Schuylkill Co. Med. Society, made an appeal to the Board of State Censors, for the first district, of which I was the Chairman. I summoned the Board and the parties, and we re-instated Dr. Halberstadt. The Schuylkill Co. Society refused to admit him & came before the State Society last week, with a long & powerful protest against the action of the Board of Censors, charging them with violating the Constitution in allowing the appeal; and also in rejecting their testimony. As Chairman of the Board I had to meet their protest and their speakers. After a heated contest, the Board was sustained by a heavy vote, and Dr. A. therefore was placed in full membership

On the second day came up the subject of Women Doctors. We had a long discussion of the subject and resumed it again on the next day and continued it till 2 P.M. The two Drs. Atlee,<sup>clxi</sup> Green of Easton, Gallagher of Pittsburg[h], and myself advocated the cause of the Women. Drs. (Prof.) Gross, Hamilton, John Bell, Nebinger, and Mayberry opposed. The motion to rescind all Resolutions on the Minutes of the Society which prohibit Consultations with Females was laid on the Table.

It is a pitiable sight to see aged physicians, like those named above, opposing the medical education of women. I have labored hard for it during about 12 years, and I shall continue to labor for it.

Just before the late meeting of the State Society, I proposed Dr. Anna Lukens for membership in the Montgomery Co. Medical Society, and she was elected. This is the first Female physician elected a member of a Medical County Society. So our Society is ahead in that. H. Corson

July 14: Thursday.

We had a letter from Joseph a few days ago. He writes that he would leave Omaha Barracks for Fort David Russell at Cheyenne, Wyoming, by next day. This is a large Fort, 150 miles this side of Fort Steele where he was last year, 550 miles beyond

Omaha where he has been all winter, on the Union Pacific Rail Road. This winter he says there will be 13 companies there. We get letters every week. The Indians are becoming warlike again about that region. Several Chiefs, among whom Red Cloud was the Chief, & another Band with Spotted Tail as Chief were to see the President three weeks ago, but though treated kindly, & feted much, they went away dissatisfied and are now on the War Path out near Fort Russell. Mayor Randall brought up another set of Chiefs to Norristown a few days ago. I took little Mary up to see them. "Running Bull" & many others were along.

Joseph Garretson, insane, has gone away again without money & without clothes almost.

It is a splendid morning, July 14<sup>th</sup> 1870. I was up at sunrise, gave a poor black fellow a note to one of the neighbors, a mile away, to see if he would not hire him. He staid here all night. The air is delightful, and I am writing in the office between the windows and reading scraps of this & that which are found in this book & have been cut from papers.

And now every moment expecting the Breakfast-bell, let me renew my determination to do the Right, on all occasions.

We hear from Joseph every week. He is soon to leave Fort Russell & go to Fort Bridger in Utah Valley. Professor Hayden & other Naturalists have been at Fort Russell and Jos. has had some of them in his quarters.

September 6: Tuesday.

At 12.30' Midday, Robt. Mcguin [sic], Dr. Ellwood M. Corson & George Corson & myself left West Philad. in the Cars for Winona, to see our Land. I have 640 acres & Mcguin & E. H. Corson together have nearly as much. We reached Chicago next day, at 3 P.M., Milwaukee by 7 P.M., La Cross on the Mississippi at 9 on Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup>, then by steamboat, landed us at Winona shortly after noon. Here we staid at the Hough Home till midday, when Robt. & Geo. went in a carriage to see the land, and Ellwood & myself, after a ride of about 8 miles & back, left in the Cars for St. Paul at 11 A.M. One hundred & fifty-five miles through the heart of Minnesota brot us to St. Paul, just at dark. It was a most lovely ride through a fertile, pretty well cultivated portion of the state. It being just after the harvest, threshing the grain in the field was in full progress, & in numerous places they were burning immense piles of straw. The ground not needing manure, they knew not but how to rid themselves of the straw in any more easy way. When 18 miles distant from St. Paul, I was suddenly attacked by palpitation of Heart, which lasted me till our arrival at "Park Place" and for about half an hour after getting to bed.

Ellwood went after my friend Dr. Hand soon after I got to bed. He came, but went away directly to get me some med., and while gone I got over it.

On Saturday, 10th, Ellwood & myself called on Major General Hancock at his Head Quarters, were kindly rec'd. and the General promised to call on us at Park Place in the evening.. Before dinner we went in the Cars to Minneapolis. There we called on Mr. Hillary Hancock, twin brother to General Hancock (and an old acquaintance of mine). After dinner he took us in his carriage to the Falls of St. Anthony & around Minneapolis; we had with us also the son of Genl. Hancock. We, with young Hancock, returned by the Cars, in the evening, to St. Paul.

As soon as we arrived at the Park Place again, I went to stay at Dr. Hand's by special invitation, and Ellwood went to the Cars to meet George who was to come up & join us after seeing the land. In the evening, Genl. Hancock sent his son in a carriage to bring us to his home, in the evening, when he was to have a few friends. As I was at Dr. Hand's & George had come up, Ellwood did not like to leave him & so did not go.

Sunday morning we took a fine two horse carriage & driver & rode to Lake Como, Falls of St. Anthony, Minneapolis, Minnehaha, &c., & returned to St. Paul 4 P.M. I spent the night with Dr. Hand's family. While talking with Dr. Hand, before breakfast next morning, I was suddenly attacked by palpitation. In about an hour George came down to go with me to the Boat. We intended to go down the River to Prairie-Du-Chien; but I could not leave the bed, so he staid with me. It did not go off till after 2 P.M., having cont'd. about 7 hours. I had taken a good deal of medicine to relieve myself, and when it had fairly left me, I felt weak & wretched, a kind of tremulous.

We went to the Cars at 5 o'clock., just before we started, Dr. Hand introduced me to Doctor Somers & wife who have been transferred from St. Paul to Norfolk. (They cont'd. with us to Philad., and were very pleasant companions). I felt very fearful that the palpitation might recur, but it held off until I got to bed, and then slept pretty soundly, and at sunrise we were nearing the Mississippi, opposite Prairie-Du-Chien. We crossed the river and took our Tuesday morning breakfast at Prairie-Du-Chien. All day we rode through Wisconsin, reached Chicago after dark. We, in company with Dr. Somers & family, went to the Fremont House. On Wednesday at 11 A.M. left Chicago, and on Thursday at a little after noon. We reached Philad. (by we, I mean George & myself. R. Mcguin went home from Winona. Ellwood left St. Paul for Du-Luth the morning I was sick at Dr. Hand's). After taking dinner at James Yocom's and washing off the dust and dirt, we took the Norristown Cars for home and arrived here at six P.M., on Monday. Found all well. Richard Foulke who was attending to my practice had managed well. But why did I not see the land, after reaching Winona – Because T. Kirk advised me if I wanted to part with it, it would be better not to see it. He said it was so hilly as to preclude all idea of it being tilled. George informs me that mine is better than his Father's, or Mcguin's, or Elijah Pennypacker's. I am now, Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>, negotiating with D. E. Ward of Va. for a farm in exchange for it.

While I was away Joseph moved to Fort Bridger. We have had many letters since. He is as usual pleased with the change. Professor Hayden & party have been there also with him. He is becoming quite interested in Science.

October 10: Monday.

Yesterday Sml. Tyson came here to see my minerals. I gave him a number, and rode to Hitner's with him to see if we could find some sulphate Borytes [borides].

November 24: Thursday.

Thanksgiving Day. We have had a most delightful Fall, or autumn. Yesterday I rec'd. from Joseph by Express from Fort Bridger a magnificent robe of a Grizzly Bear killed by one of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry on Wind River Valley. It is a monster robe, beautifully lined, hair full six inches long in many parts.

Things have gone on as usual since I last wrote. I have practiced daily, all day, generally. The Lancaster & Bucks Co. Med. Societies are both in trouble with some of

their members, and the officers are writing to me for advice, I being the Chairman of the Board of Censors.

## 1871

January 31: Tuesday.

I can hardly realize that I have not written a word here since Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>. I suppose I was going to write at that time and that as soon as I got the date written I was called away.

Splendid sleighing now for several days. John has taken Follen & Helen to Conshohocken, on their way to Philad. in the two horse sleigh.

Our neighbors John Dutterer and Reuben Yerkes both died yesterday. Since writing in November I have been doing a good deal of practice. We have all been pretty well and comfortable.

Every day I practice all day, except an hour at noon [I am] occupied in reading the *Daily Press*. At night I have been writing medical communications, and on Sunday morning I read one of Beecher's Sermons, in the afternoon the *Nation*. Rise at 6 A.M., retire at from 10 to 11 P.M.

February 5: Sunday.

Hereafter will try to write every day. This looks like writing every day, does it? It is now 3 P.M. Sunday. Very cold, 10° above, last Wednesday, Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Board of Sensors of the 1<sup>st</sup> District met in Philad. at the College of Physicians to examine the appeal of Dr. Ehler of Lancaster from the Lancaster Co. Med. Society, which expelled him from membership for consulting with an expelled member, Dr. Hinkle of Columbia. As I was the Chairman of the Board, I had the meeting commenced, and the case was heard. We sustained the Lancaster Co. Society. After that was over we heard the physicians of Bucks Co. They have dissolved the old Society and formed a new one, and it was to consider their Constitution and the propriety of endorsing it that we met. We heard the case for the Constitution, & then those who protested against the breaking up of the old Society came forward, led by Dr. Martin Suther. He wished to be represented by Council, which we refused. We had quite an excited time, a great deal of oral testimony and voluminous documents. The meeting was commenced at 11 A.M. and we rose at 3 ½ P. We concluded to sustain the New Society in its acts. I reached home in the 5 P.M. train. Next day dropped down to see Bertha who had a sore finger. Have had fine sleighing for a few days. What a great affair Joseph's great grizzly bear's skin, which he sent to me, has proved.

Samuel Corson, Brother George's son, who is a Lawyer & an uncommonly intellectual man, but good-for-nothing as a business lawyer, has been doing nothing for months, just sitting by the stove. Last Tuesday he began to teach school in the Plymouth Township public school at \$40 per month. A good thing.

Little Mary is asleep on the sofa. Mother & Follen, Jaywood Lukens & Susan are in the room talking away strongly.

February 8: Wednesday.

Evening. Last night after supper, Follen & myself went over to a neighbor's,

Sam'l. Deeds, to make an Inventory of a few things, but as he was not at home, we returned. About 9 o'clock, Follen pulled out a letter from W. L. Cresson handed him by the Conductor. On reading it, I was startled with the announcement that he, W. Cresson, would make an assignment tomorrow (today) at 10 A.M. in D. H. Mulvany's office. Late as it was, Follen & myself started to see him. He was in a low and stubborn mood, and persisted in his intention to go on with it. I am on his paper for \$700, his father for \$800. My notes will be due in a few days. Finally he promised me he would not do it tomorrow (today). This morning early I went up to see his father. Found him very polite & clever. He showed me a complete list of his debts & credits, and it was lamentable enough without ours and \$400 he owes his brother & his partner. There is more than he can wade through, I fear. But at my suggestion Mr. Cresson has concluded to wait a few days before anything more is done. Poor Tacie is greatly grieved but still hopeful. I got home again at 10 ½ A.M. and have since practiced and attended the School Board. After I went to bed last night at 11 ½ P.M., [I] heard the clock strike every hour save the 4 o'clock. I had taken a grain Sulph. Morph. & lay perfectly easy but wakeful all night. Mother, Frannie & Follen are all greatly worried on Tacie's [account].

February 9: Thursday.

Went early to see Mr. James Cresson, stopped a moment with Tacie who seemed hopeful that something may yet to be done to keep Wm. going. Mr. Cresson received me very cordially and showed me an exhibit of Wms. affairs. Mr. Cresson is on his notes for \$800, besides paying \$2200 to start him. I am on his notes for \$700. He owes his brother Clarence & his partner \$408, other parties altogether only about \$1100. He professes to have \$2200 of stock & \$600 of Bills out & collectable. So we concluded, I have at least, that there is no use in the assignment. Better for us to pay off the others wholly as they come due, if he can now, by greater attention to business, keep things along, for the assignment would not give more than about 30 cts. to the dollar. There is no need of the assignment. But we shall see how things will work.

February 10. Friday.

Mr. Cresson has gone to the city to look after the matter.

February 11: Saturday.

I heard this morning that Mr. Cresson yesterday directed Wm. to go at once to Norristown & have the assignment made. He went but Mr. Mulvany would not do it, but advised a meeting of the creditors today at 12 o'clock. I saw Mulvany at 9 o'clock and advised him to oppose the assignment.

February 12: Sunday.

Very snowy in the morning. Went out but little today. Saw Mr. B. Harry with Dr. Harry, his son. [He has] pneumonia. Wrote & signed a will for Wm. Staley.

February 13: Monday.

There has been fine sleighing today. Read Beecher's Sermon on "Good Works" yesterday. Last Friday night, or rather at 4 A.M. on Saturday, the wife of my Brother



Alan W. Corson passed away, almost before he could rise, after hearing a slight noise, which she made as if chilly and moving. It was an easy death. She was past 85 years of age. She had been an uncommonly healthy woman. She will be buried next Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> at Plymouth Meeting.

Follen went to New York, or rather left here for Philad. in the 1 ½ train yesterday, to go on to N. York at 6 P.M. on business. Frannie & Mary are all we have at home now.

February 14: Tuesday.

Yesterday I went early to Norristown, taking Frannie along in the sleigh (splendid sleighing). Attended to a number of things before 10 o'clock then went to Conshohocken to see Mr. B. Harry who is very ill with pneumonia [and] saw other patients & got home at noon. After dinner rode incessantly in the practice till dark, and then again in the evening. Rode altogether about 40 miles [and] had three horses during the day.

Follen did not reach home last evening.

Snowing again this morning. I hope to have but very little to do today.

February 15: Wednesday.

Did but very little yesterday, save to write on Interval.

March 1: Wednesday.

W. Cresson & his brother-in-law, William Wright, have gone into partnership, in the Iron Store at Conshohocken. How two families can live out of a business where W. Cresson lost full \$3000 in three years, I cannot say. But we will see. I have lost \$700 besides what I have given them.

March 2: Thursday.

Frannie has been much exercised today about going out to see Joseph at Fort Bridger. The American Medical Association will meet in May in the City of San Francisco, California, and the Delegates are to have tickets from N. York at a very reduced rate. About 150 physicians, their wives & daughters, &c., are expected to constitute the Company. Dr. Atlee has promised to take charge of Frannie, till they reach Fort Bridger and meet Joseph. It is now time to prepare to go. Mother has been poorly for a couple of weeks, but is now downstairs and pretty well, but it is so long a journey, more than a thousand miles through an uninhabited wilderness that we feel that it is no trifling undertaking. She has been greatly exercised. As she now leaves it to me, and as I know she wants to be at the wedding of Clara Lukens and the reception consequent on it, and as I know how dreadfully homesick she will be out there if she should get sick, I advised against it. So mother has written that we think she had better not go.

March 4: Saturday.

Up at 6 o'clock. Frannie wrote us last evening from Philad., where she went yesterday, that all her friends are surprised that she should give up going, and now she feels sorry she did. I feel that it is not best for her to go, so far as our peace of mind and

her comfort are concerned, but still if Joseph wishes her to come & it is convenient to some one to have charge of her she may go.

March 5: Sunday.

At 12 o'clock of Saturday night I was sitting in Neubower's house in Conshohocken, and in half an hour after his 2<sup>nd</sup> daughter was born, I left at 1 A.M., went home & went to bed (Neubower is a Jew who keeps a clothing store in Conshohocken). My niece Dr. Sarah Dolley came here last evening with Frannie & Follen from the city, and as she wished to go down again at 7 A.M., I rose at 5, had breakfast & Follen took her to the Cars. I read some & then went to Barren Hill (taking Ann with me in the carriage as far as Barren Hill Church) & saw Mrs. Peacock who is very ill with valvular disease of the heart, under which she has labored for many years. I prescribed for the poor woman, then went to see Neal Kane's wife, confined nearly a week since. She says she has slept not a bit since, now six days. From there I went two miles to Mr. Wood's nearly a mile back the lane from Markley's store on the Ridge Road at the 9 mile stone to see Mrs. Wood, who suffered horribly for 5 years with immense syphilitic of elbows, wrists, shoulders, knees, &c., tried many doctors & quacks without avail, but is now nearly well under my treatment by Iodid [sic], Potassa<sup>clxii</sup> & arsenic. Came back from there to Wm. Beckers, whose wife has heart disease and is greatly swelled in the limbs. Punctured them, then went to the house back of Beckers, Mrs. Margaret Roberts. Not much the matter with her. Then came up to B. Hill, overtook Ann & took her home, just in time for dinner at ½ past 12. Dined, laid on the lounge one hour, an unusual thing for me, but I had slept but little the night before. A man came to rent the Pennlyn [sic] farm, talked with him half an hour. Godfrey Young then came to get me to go see his wife, over Schuylkill, below Spring Mill. Took him along. He gave me an interesting history of the case; [she was] ill for a year under the care of Dr. J. K. Reid. She had a large tumor of the breast; he had given her much med. and had at least half a barrel of sweet oil rubbed over the chest. Then a month ago, he told her he could not cure her. Since then she has had a number of Quacks & Doctors. Yesterday he asked Dr. Lewis W. Read of Norristown, my nephew, to come. He had not come at noon so I was called. I stopped at the "Spring Mill Heights house" to see Mr. Breisch's son & while there, Dr. Read drove past, so when I got to the home he was there. Both breasts and the glands of the neck were affected. The breasts were enormous. We agreed on the treatment necessary, and consoled the woman as well as we could, & I went three miles further to see Miss Louize [sic] Sturgis much advanced in consumption. It was then sunset, and I turned for home, two mile, & I met Mr. John Y. Crawford. We talked in the road till it was quite dark & then came on 3 miles home. At supper alone, as I was behind time.

(I forgot to say that the first thing in the morning I visited & bled John Townsend's wife, then went to McCullup's [sic] on the great Plymouth Farm, to see him, an old man say 60, a scuffling Irishman who sold liquor & trafficed in rags, old iron, &c., in Philad. for many years & became quite rich, worth now more than 100,000 Dollars & yet penurious & uncomfortable. Has been poorly for two months & had but little done for him. I am getting him along now very well.)

After supper wrote two letters, read the *Nation*, and at 10 P.M. went to bed. So ended Sunday. Forgot that I electrified Mrs. Kline for Rheumatism.

March 6: Monday.

Rose at 5, called Ann & rung the Bell for John. John sleeps in [the] office. Just after 7 A.M. took Follen to Conshohocken on his way to Philad. Saw Mrs. Neubower, then came home and went to B. Hill to see Mrs. Peacock, who has such tremendous rapid & powerful motions of the heart, & has had it for weeks, that I concluded to give Fluid Ex. Veratria,<sup>clxiii</sup> 3 drops every 3 hours. Then went to Neal Kane's, a mile nearer to Chestnut Hill. Found his wife very ill. Went on to Charles Williams where his wife engaged me to come to her house next Wednesday at from 1 to 3 P.[M.] to examine her niece, Mrs. Williams. Then went to the Farmer's house to see a young man with Rheumatism. Reached home at 11 ½ A.M., dined at 12, and went at 12 ½ to the Quaker Meeting house to attend the funeral of Saml. Stout's son. Just as I got to the grave, a friend came to me & said a Messenger was waiting for me. Got a message to see Mrs. Peacock at once. Drove rapidly down there about 2 miles and found her with a heart beating very slowly, depressed by the Veratria, and the patient in a suffering condition feeling as though she would suffocate. Prescribed Assafetida Tinct.<sup>clxiv</sup> Staid half hour. Came back to Henry Dagers to see the gd. child. Not well & postponed it for a few days. Came right back & took Frannie with me to Conshohocken to Daughter Susan's. Went on to [the] post office. Got a letter from Dr. Halberstadt of Pottsville, one from Dr. Carpenter of Lancaster, a "*Practical Farmer*," *School Journal*, *Saturday Visitor*. This last sent by W. H. Johnson. Then we went over [the] Schuylkill to see Mrs. Young, punctured [her] limbs, advised, &c. Returning, called on Mrs. Neubower & on an Irishman near home with bruised Hand & leg. Collected some rents & got home at 5 P.M. Went right away again to Peacock's whom I found better, then to Kane's where I found Mrs. K. quite out of her mind. It is puerperal mania. Reached home after dark, and before I could sit down to supper was called in haste to W. Coulston about 2 ½ miles away. Went after supper. Horse had trod on his toe in the morning; it is now quite sore. Then I was informed by James Coulston that the Public School Teacher, Miss Mattie Briggs will have a public examination of her School on Wednesday afternoon, as she will cease to teach on that day & will be married to W. Coulston next day. That at the close of the examination, the children wish to present her with a Silver Basket, and desire also that I shall make the presentation speech. I agree[d] to it. So I got home at 9 P.[M.] and have since written down all the history of yesterday & today. Forgot to say that I wrote a long letter to Joseph this morning before breakfast. Follen brot me 50 pamphlet copies of my Essays on Scarlet Fever & Diphtheria this evening. It is now 10 o'clock & all have gone to bed, but Ann whom I hear now in the cellar. Forgot that I also visited John Staley's wife. ½ past 10 P. going to bed.

March 7: Tuesday.

Up at 5 A.M. Got some Dose Powders & some Iodid Potassa Syrup put up for my patients before breakfast. Took Follen to the Cars at Consho. before ½ past 7 o'clock A.M. Collected some rents and then went to the Depot to meet Dr. Henry Carpenter from Lancaster. He arrived in the 7 ½ train up, which reached there 20' after 8. He wanted to make a statement to me of the affairs between Lancaster Co. Med. Soc. and Doctors Hinkle & Ehler whose case was before the Censors two months ago. I had pretty much resolved to not sustain the action of the Society. But as I find that the acts for which they were expelled were only one of many violations, & after repeated warnings, I will probably sanction it. We talked till the 9 o'clock train came down, when

he left for Philad., and I went up to Jaywood Lukens' and spent a few minutes with Susan, and then came home. Started again & went to see Mrs. Peacock at B. Hill, then to Neal Kane's a mile below; found both patients better but very ill; Came from Kane's to B. Hill again, then down the road to Roxborough. On the road near Haas' I overtook Isaac Roberts (Springtown), and it occurred to me to send the Iodide Potassium Syrup for Mrs. Wood, by him to John Harner's from whence she can get it. He took it and I returned back and went towards Spring Mill, to Jeramiah Comforts to see Mrs. Youngblood, who has Rheumatism. Then went to Sp. Mill Hotel, left my horse, intending to boat over & go see Mrs. Young. At the R. Road met her husband just unloading 6 chairs from the Cars. I took 2 & he took 4, and we carried them down the tow path  $\frac{1}{4}$  a mile and then went over in his boat. Just as we got over, Dr. Ellwood Corson came walking down the Reading R. Road carrying a large box, with Microscope. He came instead of Dr. Lewis W. Read, who was to meet me at 12 noon. We spent half hour at Young's attending to the patient and trying the Microscope on some of the fluid from the ulcers. Ellwood could not do much with the instrument. The patient was pretty well drained of the Edema from arms & neck by the punctures which I made yesterday. We then walked up the Rail Road to the "Sp. Mill Heights" and Breisch took us over, and we soon got home. We took dinner and then he took little Nina Read, whom he had brot down, and went home. I went over some of my pamphlets on Scarlet Fever, correcting the typographical errors. Had a visit after dinner from Dr. John Paxson, of Jenkintown. He staid half hour. (I ought to have said that in the morning I had a visit from Mrs. Tarrence who wished to rent our Farm at Pennlyn [sic].)

At 5 P.[M.] I went to Lentz at B. Hill, also to Geo. Dagers, also to Neal Kane's, then home to supper at 6  $\frac{1}{2}$ . After supper wrote letters, examined and approved the Constitution & By-Laws of Schuylkill Co. Med. Society.

This morning rec'd. a letter from son Joseph, also one from Dr. James Tyson, Sec'y. of the Alumni Society of the University of Pa., enclosing a toast "Our Alumni," to which I am to respond next Monday evening at the Banquet of the Alumni in the Hall of the University. The toast is quite a long one.

March 8: Wednesday.

Up at 5 A.M. Laid on the sofa in the dining room till six, then wrote in my book, this book. Breakfast over, went with Follen to Conshohocken. Got the papers & journals and then went, went down to Spring Mill Hotel on [the] west side of [the] Schuylkill, from there to Young's to see that fearful disease of the breasts of the wife. The punctures I made in her hands have given egress to a great quantity of water and has greatly reduced the swelling of the arms & breasts. To attend to this patient required half hour. A message [was] there for me to go to see old Mr. Newberry on the very top of the Hill. Saw & attended to him, then bled Mrs. James, his house-keeper, for unpleasant feeling in the head. Then [went] to Conshohocken again & on homeward till I got to Yerkessville, where I visited [an] Irishman with lacerated leg, at Doyle's. Home by 10  $\frac{1}{2}$  A.M. A message to [go to] Henry Laurence's. Mrs. L. fell at Sanatoga & broke the radius 10 days ago. I went up & examined the dressings and replaced them. Home by noon. At one, went to Mrs. Peacock's, found her still poorly, very poorly with violent action of [the] heart, but first I had stopped & prescribed for John Staley's wife. From

Peacock's to Neal Kane's, from there to Charles Williams' to see a Mrs. Williams, a young lady, who wished to consult me. She gave me \$5.00 for my advice. Then to Haines' to see [a] man who has gotten well. From thence to Williams' School House, where an examination was going on, of the pupils. Found the house full. Many of my neighbors were there, also the whole of the scholars & teachers of the Fort Washington Schools. The children acquitted themselves admirably. At 4 ½ P.M., the exercises being concluded, I called up the children of the school, and arranging them in front of the teachers, addressed her [the teacher, Miss Briggs], in the name of the children, for a few minutes, and then presented to her a beautiful Cake-Basket of Silver. She was taken wholly by surprise. Not a hint had she had of it, but she made a beautiful and feeling reply. I then in the name of all those who were to see her no more here, bid her an affectionate and everlasting Farewell. The assembly dispersed in a few minutes.

Daniel Williams asked me to go with him home. I did & he paid me his bill of \$36.00, for last years attendance. Then came homeward to see William Coulston who is to be married to Miss Briggs, the teacher, tomorrow evening. Dressed his foot and came on to Jesse Kirks and was called in to see his daughter Emma, the teacher of a public school. Home by 7 o'clock P.M. Follen & Frannie gone to Howard Wood's to tea, so Mother & Mary & self had a little oyster supper to ourselves, after which, taking the lantern with us, Mary & myself went to see Jane Cunningham's child. Jane is the girl who was married from our home more than a year ago [and] lives in the Dull house. Home by 8 P.[M.]. Wrote in my Day-Book and wrote a speech for the Banquet. To bed at 11 P.M.

March 9: Thursday.

Up at 6 A.M. After breakfast went to Conshohocken. Got my letters & papers; returned by way of the McCullup's on the old Dickinson farm. Attended to him then came home by 10 A.M. Had a call to Geo. Knous' wife. Found her quite ill with cramps & pain. From there to B. Hill to Peacock's. Heart still beating very violently. Gave Bro. Potassium. Then to Neal Kane's. Home by 12 ¼. Before dinner, [I] got a sharp pain in the left side, which went on getting worse until in half hour, [when I] was compelled to take Morph. [and] in half hour another quarter. Then Frannie & myself went to Pennlyn [sic] to see the farm, then from there a mile further to see a man who wished to rent. Returned from Pennlyn [sic] by way of Joseph Tarrence's. His wife has been here twice to rent the farm, and I think of letting her have it [as it] is very late and tenants scarce. Rents are coming down. My Morph. has cured the side, but I feel it all over me. Got home at sunset. Have not done much practice today. Forgot that I galvanized Mrs. Cline. Was just preparing to go upstairs to bed ¼ before 11 P.M., when there was a knock at the door, and I found the two messengers from Godfrey Young wanting me to go see his wife. I told them I could not do any good if I did & they went home with a promise from me that I would come in the morning, and I went to bed. [Because of] the Morph. I took today, I am feeling strongly.

March 10: Friday.

Called up at 2 A.M. Two Irishmen (there are always two come at night, never one alone) wish me to come to Fitzgerald's. Wife poorly. It is a mile down the Ridge Road, and it is raining fearfully, but is not dark as there is a moon. Got John to gear up

and take me down. He waited for me an hour, when I was ready to go. The woman was quite well, as well as the son. Got home before 4 A.M., still raining. Did not sleep well. Rose at 6 A.M. Went with Follen to Consho. Got the papers, went to Young's over [the] Schuylkill and from there to see Mr. Newberry. Then home by way of Geo. Knous' at Spring Mill; home by 11. A call to Newton Smiths to see his wife with bowel affection, also to Wm. Staley [with] cramp & pain in bowel. From there to Peacock's, then home 12 ½. After dinner took Mother to Norristown, but first put up medicine for Mr. McCullup. Spent some time with William & Ell & Dr. Schrack Jr. in the office. Then called on John J. Corson, & also on Dr. Mary Stinson. Came back to Tacie's & got Mother & home by 7 P.M.

After supper, Edward Wistar, Jaywood Lukens & Susan came in & we had a pleasant time till 9 P.[M.], when Jay & Susan left.

Follen had gone early in the evening to Charles Williams' with Geo. Corson to see Martha. She did not come into the room. Her father entertained them. To bed at 10 ½ P.[M.].

I got a very complimentary letter from Dr. Stebbins today concerning my Scarlet Fever cases.

March 11: Saturday.

Up at 5. Went first with Follen to Conshohocken, then went to Spr. Mill and crossed over to Young's in the small boat. Patient very ill, suffering from over, or at least stupefying dose of laudanum, 4 tablespoonful two or 3 times a day are sometimes given. I have now forbidden it, except 1 teaspoonful at bedtime in strong coffee. She smokes also. Returned to Spr. Mill and went to Geo. Knous', from there to Dan'l. Haas. Got \$40 for attendance of his brother George; then [went] up to Peacock's, then back to Neal Kane's, then to John Staley's & Wm. Staley's & off [to] home by one P.M. Had to take care of the nurse (as John was away at Norristown, hauling to fill up the lot at Tacie's) and put up some medicine. After dinner took Frannie & Ed Wistar with me to Norristown. Got there at 4 P.[M.] Talked some time with friends, here & there. Went to see Mrs. Welsh, Miss Van Court, & John Corson, the last not sick. Home by 7 P.

Went half a mile to see a man after supper, and dressed his leg. Wrote & read, preparing a response to the toast to be read at the Banquet on Monday evening. I don't mean that my response will be read. 11 ½ went to bed. All the family had been there for 1 ½ hours.

March 12: Sunday.

Up late, 7 A.M. Breakfast. Took Mary with me to Sp[ring] Mill, then sent her with the carriage to Conshohocken, so as to be there if Bertha & child should come up. I went across in the boat to Young's, then back in time to go in the 9 A.M. cars to Conshohocken. As I stepped out of the rear end of one car, Bertha was coming out of the front of the car behind ours, so we met on the platforms, which was fortunate. We went to our carriage where we met Elias H. Corson's son George who had come down for Thomas Adamson & wife. He said he would go home as they had not come. Bertha then said that she thought he was standing up in the crowd. She did not remember ever having seen him, but knew him from his photograph. I went & found them & introduced George, whom they did not know at all, so he got there.

After visiting a patient, we came on as far as Jaywood Lukens', stopped a moment with him & Susan, and then home by 10 ½. Then 4 miles down the road to see Mrs. Becker & Margt. Roberts, & gd. ch., [then] back to Peacock's & John Staley & home to dinner. Found a man & wife in the office, who had come from Hestonville to get medicine of me. The man was here about a month ago, and the med. I gave him (Aperient Solution) had cured him. So now he brought his wife (a Dyspeptic) & a letter from Mrs. Charles Kelly. Prescribed for all of them and he paid me \$3.50. Just as they were getting away, I was sent for to see Mrs. Saml. Davis at B[arren] Hill. Sent John out to E. H. Corson's with my Scarlet Fever pamphlet & my Food for Infants, to Thos. Adamson ship. He then took me to B. Hill. Raining terribly. Home by 4 P. [M.]. Read a little before supper, and again afterwards till 8 P.[M.], when I was called to John Hoover's to see the child. Went to bed at 10 ½.

So the above was the work of one week. It is not so much by half as I have often done for weeks at a time, but it would be weary on some [like] me. H. Corson.

March 13: Monday.

Rose at 5. Practiced strongly till 3 P.M., when I took the cars for Philad. to get clothes, and to be at the Banquet of the Alumni in the Hall of the University of Pa. As I am the oldest member of the Executive Committee of the Society of the Alumni of the University of Pa. (Medical Department), I was appointed to respond to the following toast: "Our Alumni! Their history is the history of the pioneers of our profession in this country, and of hundreds of the leading members of that profession, during at least four generations, the oldest and the largest and the most distinguished medical body of the land. We are proud of our fathers and elder brothers in our groups; and while we would cherish and help each other in our common origin and common impulses, we especially desire to follow their example in all good words and works."

After Follen & myself had gotten me a hat and a coat, I went to the meeting, where I found Ellwood and many other friends. Ell & I went to see Dr. George Maulsby, U.S. Navy, Ellwood's uncle, and tried to get him to come to the meeting, but as he had no ticket, nor invitation, he would not go. It was a meeting of the Alumni of the University & of the recent graduates.

At half past 8 the toasts were begun. Mine came at 9 P.[M.] and I responded as best I could. They were all Professors & old speakers but myself.

Reached the Cars at 10 & got home at 11.20 P.[M.]. Pretty tired.

March 14: Tuesday.

Rose early. Went quickly after breakfast to Henry Laurence's to see his wife's broken arm; from there to Norristown. Left my carriage at brother Williams and took the Cars at 9 A.M. for Philad. Jean Read, Ellwood & wife went along. Maggie (Ell's wife), Jean & myself went to 704 Vine St. to see Thomas Adamson & wife who will start in a few days for Melville, Australia, to which place he has been sent as American Consul. Had a pleasant call with the wife. They then went to the Academy of Music, and I went to Doctor Maulsby, at Girard House, and then went to the University to join the procession. Had a pleasant half hour there & then we started, Dr. Maulsby & Dr. Horner of the Navy & myself abreast. In a square or two we met Nebinger, who joined us & there he & I dropped in behind the other two, making a new pair. The ceremonies

proceeded as usual, after which there was a presentation of a Portrait of Surgeon Harry H. Smith, late Professor, by the students. It was rec'd. by John C. Cresson on the part of the Trustees. I reached the Cars by 3 P.[M.], and was safely home by 5 P.[M.]. Three physicians, strangers came to me to thank me for my articles on Scarlet Fever; while at the University, [I] did some practice.

March 15: Wednesday.

Sent three tickets to Dr. Maulsby, & wife, to the Female Medical Commencement, at Concert Hall, also sent them my pamphlets on "Scarlet Fever" & "Food for Infants." Practiced all day, save going to Norristown to pay Joseph's note to John J. Corson.

March 16: Thursday.

The *Public Record*, *Enquirer*, & *Age* had special Commendations of my Response to the Toast, "Our Alumni." The *Age* said, "Our Alumni brought the veteran Dr. Hiram Corson of Norristown on his feet, who electrified the assemblage with one of the most spontaneously eloquent addresses that it has been our pleasure to hear for a long time." Practiced all day.

**Editor's note:** The actual newspaper clipping of this is enclosed in Diary Book V.

March 17: Friday.

Marcus H. Corson, my nephew, came over today, and has been riding with me. He intends to be with me this summer.

March 18: Saturday.

Very rainy. Prepared to go to Philad. with a patient, but it rained so heavily that I got no further than Conshohocken. [Received] several letters this week from persons thanking me for my Essay on Scarlet Fever; also several persons came personally to me when in Philad. to thank me. Practiced all day. Weather cleared up at noon.

March 19: Sunday.

Up early and read & wrote a good deal before any of the family came down. After breakfast took Marcus with me to see patients till noon. Jaywood Lukens & Susan were here from Meeting to dinner. After dinner, Follen went horseback riding with Mr. Howard Wood, and James & myself went in my carriage to Norristown to see brother William & got old Jesse Hansel to make [a] fence for me. We had a pleasant ride & got home by five o'clock. I got a letter at Norristown from [the] Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Alumni Association of [the] Medical Department of [the] University of Pa. to come to a meeting there at 4 ½ P.M. on Monday. So after I came home I went to Spring Mill to see if I could send a letter to Frank Newberry to meet me there tomorrow at 3 P.M., so that I might take him to have advice of Surgeon H. H. Smith, respecting [his] Disease of the Bladder, which has troubled him for some time. Jacob Breisch, my patient at Sp. Mill Heights, sent it up for me.



Follen returned before supper and Jaywood & Susan left after tea. Mother read during the evening & Frannie wrote a letter or two, while I examined works on measles & wrote a letter to Charley Foulke.

March 20: Monday.

Prepared to go to Philad. at 9 this morning, but after going to see old man McCullup, & getting to Consho[hocken], I found two calls for me in my P.O. Box, & had to go about so long that I could not go till 1 ½ P.M. Left my horse at Spring Mill and took the Cars. Went to corner of 9<sup>th</sup> & Chestnut to meet Fr. Newberry, but he did not come. At 4 ½, I went [to] the "Executive Committee of the Alumni Association" in the University. Spent an hour there and when we "broke up," it was raining furiously, so I came up to Cars & took 6:15 train & got home at 7 ½ P.[M.].

March 21: Tuesday.

Rose early, was at Consho[hocken] by 8, visited over [the] Schuylkill patients & B[arren] Hill patients before noon. Attended the Spring Mill School examination in the afternoon. (The large barn of the old man Righter, now deceased, was burned last night. 12 cows & 3 horses being burned up). Doctor Charles Foulke came here by way of the Cars this morning. He looks very well and seems in good spirits.

March 22: Wednesday.

Practiced hard till noon, then went to Pennlyn [sic] to meet a man to look at the place to buy. He did not come, so came home by Mr. Whittall's to see Mrs. Laurence who has had a broken arm. In the evening went to settle with P. C. Evans who has owed me a long time. Took his note for \$109. Got home at 9 P.[M.] & had to go to E. H. Corson's to see Martha who has Erythema Rheumatismal.<sup>clxv</sup> ½ past 10 to bed.

March 23: Thursday.

5 ½ A.M. Got up first in the house. Called John. Wrote and read till breakfast time. Went to Norristown, home at noon. Practiced all the afternoon. Tacie & children, & Mary Cresson spent the day here. Will came to tea. After tea, John took them all home.

March 24: Friday..

In bed till sunrise. Took Follen to Consho. Before 8. Visited patients over [the] Schuylkill, 4 families, came back by 10. Practiced all day. Wrote to Joseph, also to W. H. Johnson, before 10 o'clock.

March 25: Saturday.

Practiced all day pretty hard. Among other things, I took "Mother" down to Jaywood Lukens' after dinner or about 3 P.[M.] (before that spent an hour getting the plough started in sod.), then went away to Mill Creek to see two families, also several at West Conshohocken. As I got back to the Bridge, just at dusk, found Dr. Stiles waiting for me, to get me to assist him to turn in [a] case of arm presentation in a poor Negro woman, old Dr. Aaron's daughter. I performed the operation for him though it was a

difficult thing to do, on account of having been pressed down firmly for hours. Got home at 8 P.[M.]. Read some & went to bed by 9 ½ P.[M.].

March 26: Sunday.

Up at 6 A.M. Read one of Beecher's sermons before breakfast. Practiced all the forenoon. At 1 ½ P.[M.], Follen & Frannie went about 6 miles to Jos. Rex's on business. Began to rain just as they started. Rained & snowed badly all the afternoon & evening. Frannie & self spent an hour at Genl. Fritz's (house), a near neighbor. Then I was called to see a patient, whom I was attending with a fearful burn. He is worse. Follen drove me over, & at 10 we were back & ready for bed.

March 30: Thursday.

There has been but little to note for the past few days. Mother (wife) went yesterday to stay a few days with Bertha. Frannie also went with her to Philad. to attend the meeting of the "Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals." I practiced pretty steadily every day. John farmed, Ann & Emma did the work in the house. Follen made his daily trips to town. Mary had a general superintendence & pursued her studies under Frannie's teaching. One of the life long patients (medically speaking) died a few days ago. She had suffered with Heart Disease for about 30 years. Poor girl! She had a suffering time of it, with the abuse of a drunken father, poverty & disease. She was a beautiful girl, Miss Henrietta Cressman, afterwards Mrs. Peacock. She leaves a son, Henry Peacock. I attended her funeral at 11 A.M. today. She was buried at B. Hill Church, and the Minister, Rev. Dimm<sup>clxvi</sup> preached a good sermon.

In the afternoon, Mary & self went to Springtown to see Saml. Roberts who has a skin cancer on the face. Then visited Justin Jones to get a bill, then to Norristown to see some patients. At Norristown my niece, Mrs. Mary Roberts, told me that Mrs. Cady Stanton, the great advocate of Woman's Rights, and who is now doing so much to have the laws so changed as to allow women to vote, and who on Wednesday night lectured to an immense audience in the "Academy of Music," had just arrived at Dr. Ellwood Corson's. Mrs. Corson is her Sister's daughter. So after doing my business, I called on Mrs. Stanton and had a pleasant half hour's conversation. Mrs. Corson expects quite a number of Ladies there this evening to meet Mrs. Stanton. How much one earnest worker can do. Mrs. S. is agitating the people profoundly.

April 2: Sunday.

It was raining yesterday, and I was somewhat exposed, so feel not well this morning. Soon after I left home, I was taken with palpitations of the Heart at John Staley's. I said nothing about it, but quickly prescribed and drove off home without seeing any more patients. It cont'd. for two hours. I cont'd. in bed till noon, then practiced all the afternoon. My heart has been quiet, but intermitting, losing one beat about every 30 or 40 pulsations all along for several days. It is now almost 14 years since I first noticed this intermittent condition of my pulse. I had laid down on the settee after supper, an unusual thing for me to do. In half an hour was called on by Joseph Haines who wishes me to adjust a monied difficulty between his wife & her brother. He has now gone home and as it is 8 o'clock, and I am very weary, I will retire.

April 5: Wednesday.

On Monday I was in [the] city from 8 A.M. till 5 P.[M.]. Had a patient to Dr. Smith, visited W. H. Johnson and went with him to Woman's Hospital. Saw Anna Lukens, & Miss Broomall & others of the doctors. Did a great many things in various parts of the city. Came up in the train with Dr. Atlee & had a consultation with him & Dr. Stiles at Conshohocken in D. R.. Stiles' case.

Yesterday practiced strongly all day. Had a palpitation on Monday night after supper. Had had one on Sunday. Aunt Harriet (as we all call her, Dr. Chas. Foulke's wife), came here last evening.

April 27: Thursday.

This day at noon, Clara Lukens, daughter of Lewis A. Lukens, long excellent friend of mine, is to be married to Charles Heber Clarke of Philad. We are invited. Frannie is one of the Bride's Maids. Follen is also to be there.

Have been practicing steadily since my last writing. Have had several letters from Joseph. The Doctors who go to the Am. Med. Association at San Francisco have started, and as Joseph has invited them to stop a brief time with him, they think of doing so. Prof. Stillé, Prof. Gurney Smith<sup>clxvii</sup>, Dr. Caspar Wistar, Dr. Washington Atlee, & Dr. Jos. Parrish will go from Philad. We had a large medical meeting yesterday. I had taken special pains to call the members together. Had written 40 notices and sent them, telling them that I had invited Dr. Lee to lecture in spinal diseases & show his appliances. We had 27 physicians present.

May 7: Sunday.

Splendid morning. There has been rain for several days, but is now clear & breezy, wind from N.W. "Mother" (wife) is in Germantown at Priscilla Wistar's. I am to go for her in the afternoon. I have been up since five o'clock. Have read Rev. Harry Ward Beecher's Sermon on "The Law of Benevolence," a most delightful sermon. Have also done several other matters. The others not up yet. The French people are fighting dreadfully with each other ever since the Germans evacuated Paris. They are now fighting all around Paris. Every day brings the news of Battles.

10 o'clock. All gone to bed, wife at Tacie's. Have practiced a good deal today. Read Beecher's Sermons, & other things. I will go to bed and if possible try to go through the week in the faithful & conscientious performance of duty. I have much to do every day, and now that the State Medical Society is to meet in a month, I have not too much time to get ready for it. But we make resolves and forget them, and go on in the old way.

June 5: Monday.

We have had an uncommonly hot month and dry one. Never did I know such a May. We have had but one rain for a month. It is excessively hot now and dry. Almost one week [since] I was to see Professor Joseph Leidy. I took him down fossil bones sent to me by Joseph from the Fort Bridger country. Leidy was greatly pleased with them. He had read a description of one Joseph sent to him, last Wednesday evening before the Academy. He is very desirous for Joseph to continue [the] search for them. He also gave me a very valuable Report from Prof. Hayden of the Smithsonian Institute

of his several explorations of the Wyoming region. He gives an admirable account of that Rocky Mountain Country.

**Editor's note:** At this point in the diary book are pasted two newspaper clippings. One titled *ANECDOTES OF PUBLIC MEN* by Col. J. W. Forney, which tell of the relationship between Daniel Webster and Rufus Choate, of Massachusetts. The other, titled *The Woman Question*, gives extracts from the annual address delivered before the American Medical Association by its President, Dr. Alfred Stillé.<sup>clxviii</sup> These extracts, it was remarked, "will hardly meet with the hearty endorsement of the members of the Suffrage Association."

July 7: Friday.

About 5 P.M. while practicing & in good health, I was attacked with palpitation of the Heart at Mrs. Kerper's in B[arren] Hill. Without speaking of it, I started for home. They not discovering that there was anything the matter with me. I was ill [until] 11 P.M. before I got over it. In the meantime I took an Emetic of Ipecac and a good deal of other medicine. I think the next time I get it, I will take but little of anything. But I will try in my living and in my movements to be very careful so as to prevent its recurrence. Mary & Mother were at New Hope at the time I was sick.

July 12: Wednesday.

Mother & Mary returned this morning. We had a letter from Joseph a few days ago. While hunting fossils 14 miles from camp & entirely alone, his horse got frightened just as he drew up the iron pin which tethered him by a long lariat, and dragged him about 25 yds. over the rough ground of the desert. He then let loose and had seven miles to walk to the nearest ranch, weary, feet sore & loaded with fossils. It was very dangerous, suppose he had had his leg broken. He says he will never go alone again.

July 13: Thursday.

I was startled this morning by seeing in the morning paper that Mrs. Ellen G. Wharton, widow of Col. Henry Wharton dec'd., was arrested for the murder of General Ketchum of the U.S.A. in Baltimore. She was the daughter, the idolized daughter of my old friend, Mr. George Nugent, many years resident near Gulph Mills beyond Conshohocken. Not only is she charged with the murder above stated, but also of the murder of her husband & her son Harry also an officer of the U.S. Army & the attempted murder of Eugene Van Ness.

She was the most fascinating woman. It is worth while to mention here that 30 years ago, owing to strange acts of her's, her father consulted with Brother William and myself and we arranged to have her sent to the "Frankford Asylum for the Insane." The night preceding that on which she was to be taken, Lieut. Wharton carried her off from her father's house and early next morning they were married in Philad. Mr. Nugent, on discovering that they had gone, sent for me and entreated me to discover there whereabouts. I went to Philad. and induced [them] to return home. In a few days it was discovered that she had run herself in debt in Philad. to the am't. of nearly \$3000. These debts her father refused to pay, and Lieut. Wharton was pressed for them. To be brief, Mr. Nugent finally gave me the money to pay them, which I did. She has always been

insane on the subject of money, borrowing & buying from all within her reach, and her extravagance in its use has terminated in fearful crimes. The printed slips from the daily papers will show the facts as at present reached. A reporter of one of the dailies was here early this morning to interview me.

July 23: Sunday.

Was up about sunrise; have read much and yet now at 7 A.M. there is scarcely one person up. I used to be disgusted, when at N. Hope many years ago, with the lying in bed so long in the morning, and hoped it would never be so here. But it seems that it is coming to be the same.

I have practiced a great deal the past week. Mrs. Wharton has been sent to jail, and at present, the Newspapers are pretty quiet on her case.

**Editor's note:** At this point in the diary are pasted two newspaper articles about the Wharton case. Note should be made that Dr. Corson, strangely, made no notations in his diary regarding the Pennsylvania Medical Society's twenty-second annual session in Williamsport from June 14<sup>th</sup> to June 16<sup>th</sup>, 1871. At that session, the resolution to rescind the notorious resolution adopted in 1859, reversing official policy of forbidding members to consult with women physicians and professors of female medical colleges. Dr. Corson was in the forefront in the fight for women's rights in medicine. Strangely, Diary Book 5, which covers the periods between 1869 and the early part of 1876, makes no mention of this momentous occasion. What we find instead is that following the entry on December 22, 1871, Dr. Corson pasted a clipping from '*THE WEEKLY EXPRESS*, Rochester, Thursday, Nov. 19, '68.'" It contains a long article dealing with "Pioneer Women Physicians." It begins by stating, "The Galaxy for December contains an interesting article, by Miss Mary E. Wagner, on Women as Physicians, from which we copy a sketch of one of our most successful medical practitioners in this city, Mrs. L. C. Dolley, who has the honor of being the second woman in this country who received a full medical education and the degree of Doctor of Medicine. The history of the difficulties which Miss Adamson, now Mrs. Dolley encountered, will be read with interest by many friends here:"

Because Miss Adamson was a student Dr. Hiram Corson, and the sketch gives specifics and provides an insight into the struggle for women to be admitted into the medical profession, a struggle in which Dr. Corson played a big part, it is presented as an endnote.<sup>clxix</sup> The details surrounding the rescinding of the resolution of 1859 at the twenty-second annual session of the Pennsylvania Medical Society in 1871 in Williamsport are also presented in an endnote.<sup>clxx</sup>

August 15: Tuesday.

Heyward Drayton Esq. & wife, and Mr. ---- [empty space], the law partner of Mr. Thomas, counsel for Mrs. Wharton came here to see us this evening.

Think Mrs. W. will not likely be convicted. The defense will not be Insanity. Mr. Drayton is Pres[ident] of the Society in Philad. for promoting Agriculture and says he will send me a copy of General Pleasonton's Essay on the effects of the Blue Color of the Sky on the growth of plants & animals

Mrs. Wharton is now accused of killing her husband & her two sons, Edward Norton (brother to her husband) and his daughter, and some add the father to the list. Also of poisoning with intent to kill, Mrs. Alcock, Mrs. ----- [sic], a lady from whom she had borrowed \$2000, also Eugene Van Ness, and a few others. The papers all over the country teem with items.

August 19: Saturday.

At 5 P.M. Frannie left us to go to Conshohocken to join Jaywood Lukens & Susan, and at 6 o'clock to leave there for Philad., so as to make a call on Bertha & her husband at No. 2040 Vine St., and then go to West Philad. to take the Cars at 9:40 P.M. for Omaha. Follen went down with Frannie to Philad., & little Mary brought back the carriage from Conshohocken.

The children have been agitating this subject for some time without feeling that they would really get off. But a short time ago, Joseph sent word that he could get them free passes from Omaha to Carter's Station on the U.P.R.R., which is within 12 miles of the military station, Fort Bridger, where Joseph is Post Surgeon, they concluded to make ready. So the passes came and they are off. I gave Frannie \$150 for the trip. It is a long ride, 2500 miles, five days & five nights steady flight will take them there. Mary Lukens, Jay's sister, goes with them as far as Chicago. Then she will drop down to Decatur Illinois to see her relatives. They will then go to Omaha, and then across the plains. Joseph will be ready, he says, at the Station, with a Yellow Ambulance, & 4 mules, besides himself, to receive them.

August 20: Sunday.

Death of my early friend Cynthia Jones, daughter of Evan Jones. When I began practice, I boarded with Jonathan Maulsby, who was married to Cynthia's only sister Jane, a lovely woman. Cynthia afterwards married my friend Dr. Evan Lester. They had one son and then the Doctor died. His widow afterwards married her former husbands Uncle, Evan Green, quite an old man. She died last Friday or Thursday and is to be buried at Gwynedd Meeting today at 11 A.M.

I went to the funeral today. Met Mr. Wm. Chapin, Superintendent of the Blind Asylum, an Asylum for the Blind in Philad., at the Depot on the N. Penna Road, and took him with me to the Meeting house, with the procession. Mr. Chapin, when a young man, was engaged to Miss Jane Jones, only sister to Cynthia, but the marriage fell through and she married Jonathan Maulsby. I lived 3 years with her & her husband when I began practice.

Mr. Chapin spoke to me of his love for her, as we rode along. He seems to have had a life long regret that they were separated. After the funeral we took dinner at Acuffs tavern with the friends of the family of Cynthia, after which I came home by myself, getting home about 3 o'clock.

August 30: Wednesday.

We have had two letters from Frannie, one when they reached Chicago, the other from Omaha. Going along bravely, tired but cheerful. Spent one day at Chicago. Must have reached Joseph at Fort Bridger about last Saturday. It is now Wednesday. The weather is very dull and rainy. But of what account to record that? Who will care for

the weather, when after years they rec'd. this? Ah! Will any one ever read it? If they do, it will only be to laugh over it, seeing how much we make of a trip which then they will perform in half the time, perhaps in a balloon.

I have two color'd men now, and two white girls. Jesse Foulke & Priscilla Wistar & daught. Anna are also here. Every morning I take Follen to Conshohocken, to the 8 A.M. Cars, get my letters and messages, visit my patients there and on my return, arriving at home about 10 o'clock. Then visit again till noon, read an hour after dinner, then practice till supper at 6 P.M.

September 10: Sunday.

Have had several letters from Frannie & Susan. They arrived at Bridger on Saturday, a week after they started. Found Joseph & his four muled ambulance waiting there at Carter's Station, 12 miles from the Fort. The Officers and families greeted them very cordially and have been very polite and attentive to them.

On Friday Sep. 1<sup>st</sup>, they left (Joseph with them) for Salt Lake City.

September 11: Monday.

I have been doing a good deal of the best kind of Practice for the past month. Am now attending Mr. Morehead's family and John Wood's family, both of whom Dr. Reid used to have. Today I was called to Cousin Henry Dickinson near Fort Washington.

Rec'd. a letter from Frannie to Mother this morning, dated Salt Lake City, Sep. 2<sup>nd</sup>. She gives a glowing description of their ride of 9 hours and the grandeur of Echo and Weber Cannons, and of the town, the Tabernacle, the Temple, &c. They heard Joe Smith Jr. & another preach, &c. She closed by saying they would visit Fort Russell next day.

Follen brot a letter from Frannie home with him from the City, written 3 days later than the one to Mother, in which she says they had returned to Bridger from Salt Lake City, and that they will leave for home on Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> at 5 in the morning. So we will probably have them home about Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>. Charles Lukens' son 13 mo. old, died yesterday. I had been in consultation with Dr. Reid three times, but not until it was hopeless.

There have been a great many [stories] and many false publications made in the Baltimore papers against Mrs. Wharton. Nellie still stays with her in the jail. Dr. Washington Nugent, her brother, who was formerly my student, is terribly distressed by a recent article published in the "Baltimore American" that all his father's children were part African, and when they first came to Montgomery County, no persons visited them, &c., &c.

Dr. Nugent has a daughter now, now a young lady, and it is mostly on her account that it is so severely felt by him. They will try to do without Insanity as a defense.

September 16: Saturday.

At 7 P.M., Frannie got home from her long journey of more than 5000 miles. They visited Salt Lake City, spending two days there and at "Fort Douglas," which is situated high up on the neighboring mountain & "commands" the town or city. They were in the Tabernacle on Sunday and saw the Communion given to an immense multitude. Three persons preached, and at [communion] mugs or cups with double

handles were passing along at the same time to the communicants. I do not mean that the three preachers were at it the same time, or any of them, when the communion was being administered. The building holds 13,000. Ten thousand were believed to be present that day. The children are delighted with the trip. They left Joseph very well.

September 23: Saturday.

We have had letters from Joseph written since his sisters left. He is very well, but Colonel Whittlesey is very sick. Poor Fellow! He is a victim of Intemperance.

October 28: Saturday.

Have just heard that Col. Whittlesey is dead. Susan had a letter from Joseph to that effect yesterday.

Dr. Leidy came up as per appointment Sat. Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> at 11 A.M.. Took dinner, examined my minerals, a few of which I gave him. I then took him to Norristown, & at 4 ½ he left on the Cars for home. He brought the [fossil] turtle with him.

The Great Chicago Fire.

Last Sunday night a week (Oct. 15), the fire began. In the history of the world no such conflagration has been known. The whole of the solid part of the city is entirely destroyed. The fire was accompanied by a wind of tornado violence. No "fire proof" building stood any more chance of safety than the most frail wooden building. In a few hours fire, miles of city was swept away, and the people were homeless to the number of hundred's of thousands, without saving more than the clothes which they had on. I will leave next page for statistics.

A few days since, I rec'd. a letter from the counsel of Mrs. Wharton, asking me to come as a witness to Annapolis on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of December when her trial will begin. I have not yet replied to him but will do so for him.

November 1: Wednesday.

Now that they have had time to look around, it is found that 60 miles of streets of buildings were burned. Contributions of money, clothes, food, &c. have been pouring in, not only from every part of our country, but from every part of the civilized world. Every country in Europe has been generous in contributions.

I ought to insert here an account of the fires in Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois & Minnesota occurred at the same time as the Chicago Fire. The fire which occurred on the shores of Lake Michigan, near Saginaw Bay, on the Eastern shore, was fearful in loss of towns & loss of life, but scarcely equaled in horror those which occurred on the Western shore. The country some twenty miles from the lake got on fire. It then swept with fearful rapidity toward the lake and as a perfect gale sprung up, the people could not get away from it. The town of Peshtigo<sup>clxxi</sup> was utterly destroyed and nearly every inhabitant perished. In another village, the inhabitants being unable to break through the flames, let themselves down in wells. 27 bodies were taken out of one well after the fire ceased. I cannot pretend to give an idea of the wide spread destruction. The newspapers are filled with descriptions of the terrible destruction.

November 2: Thursday.

Rec'd. a letter from Dr. Flowers of Mount Olive, North Carolina, wanting me to



send him an account of my mode of using Ice in Scarlet Fever & Diphtheria, as the Epidemic was with them. He had seen the history which I published two weeks ago of seven cases (fatal cases) of Scarlet Fever in one family, in Erie Co., N.Y., with my remarks on the treatment, and my preference for the ice treatment. I think my Ice Treatment is gaining ground.

November 6: Monday

On Saturday evening Daughter Bertha came up, with Frannie, who had been spending some days with her, and brot her two children, Frannie & Thomas. The latter only about 11 months, but yet able to walk. Beautiful children they are, and well behaved. Yesterday, Bertha & her husband came up and staid till 5 P.M., when he went to his Father's. I have been practicing very strongly for some time.

There is an Epidemic of small pox in Philad., 95 deaths past week, 84 the week before, 74 before that, &c. So the fright is great, and every body who goes to Philad. rushes to the Doctors to be vaccinated, and at last it has come to be the rule to vaccinate old & young in my family.

December 1: Friday.

The small pox has gradually increased from week to week until the present one has above 200 deaths. I have had the partial attendance of one case which died a few days ago. The whole community, men, women & children have to be vaccinated. I have done a great deal of labor in practice, and have written & read a great deal. It is a steady labor in practice from morning (5 A.M. I rise), starting at 7 ½ till 6 P.M.

Some time back myself & brother William were written to by Counsel John W. Thomas in relation to what we knew about her early life [Mrs. Wharton's], pseudo wedding, &c., &c., and wishing we would attend if requested, inasmuch as (being in another state) they could not compel our attendance. We gave a synopsis of the points on which we could testify, and expressed a willingness to go if needed, provided they would see to the expense incurred by us. He agreed to do it, and we were subpoenaed for Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, 1871. Afterwards he appointed the 7<sup>th</sup> for us, the Trial to begin on the 4<sup>th</sup>. As the trial progressed very slowly for the first 3 days, I telegraphed Mr. Thomas, to say if we would be needed on the 7<sup>th</sup>. He replied that we would not & that he would notify us by telegraph one day in advance of our being needed.

December 5: Tuesday.

On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>, I had a palpitation of [the] heart for about an hour, and felt very weary all day. Monday (yesterday) at 10 ½ A.M., while in Mrs. Morehead's chamber and while talking with her & her friend, I was again attacked. I got away as quickly as I could without letting them know what had happened and rode home. It cont'd. steadily on until 10 P.M. This was the longest time I ever had it. I took nothing to prevent it until 8 o'clock, then took 2 teaspoonsful Tinct. [4 fluidrams] Snake Root<sup>clxxii</sup> and 4 drops Tinct. Veratrin, fluid extract it was. In an hour took 3 drops more. It suddenly left at 10 P.[M.].

Ellwood came to see some patients for me today (Tuesday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>). I did not feel able to go out during the afternoon, so waited for Richard Foulke who was to come & take charge of my practice. He came at noon & has visited some patients for me, and

I have seen others. Brother Wm. came also to dinner, and to see if he could do anything for me, and also to see when we would start for Annapolis, as witnesses in the trial of Mrs. Wharton, for the poisoning of Genl. Ketchum. The counsel for the defense, John H. Thomas, Esq. has appointed Thursday the 7<sup>th</sup> for us to come down, and we expect to go at 11:45 A.M. from Philad. I have been reading up on Insanity for several days. As Richard is here now, I feel more comfortable, as I shall send him at night.

The Trial of Mrs. Wharton began Monday, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>. The paper of today says they have the Jury and have examined one witness.

December 9: Saturday.

I paste here a photograph of little George Wharton, the youngest son of Mrs. Wharton, who died suddenly at Brower's Hotel in Norristown at about 2 years of age, about the year before the War [of the] Rebellion. It is now believed by many of us that he too fell a victim to the said monomania of his mother. He was the first victim, if her father was not. He too died very suddenly when Mrs. Wharton was home on a visit.

The trial has progressed through the whole week, and only three persons have been examined. On Wednesday last, as the trial seemed to progress slowly, I telegraphed John H. Thomas, her Counsel to know if we need come next day as previously agreed upon. He replied that we would not be needed this week and after that when needed, he would telegraph to us a day before we were wanted. Mrs. Chubb & Doctors Williams & Chew have been examined.

For the past week I have been preparing for the trip to Annapolis to the trial of Mrs. Wharton for the murder by poison of General Ketchum. As William, my brother, and myself were at one time ready to take her to the Asylum as a crazy person (about 30 years age), they are anxious to have us as witnesses.

I have practiced a good deal and have had Richard Foulke, M.D., here to take my practice, if I should be telegraphed for. But as of yet they have not sent. I was in Philad. last Wednesday & today. Bertha's children both have large swellings in angle of jaw, and I have been both times to see them.

December 10: Sunday.

Have practiced nearly all day. Richard was here but did not go in the practice. Small Pox is still occurring in Conshohocken. My old friend & patient, Mr. John Newberry, died yesterday. He was an excellent man, so kind, gentle, honest, benevolent. He was in his 80<sup>th</sup> year. His son Frank is also poorly. Mother is writing to Joseph. Dick Foulke, Frannie & Follen are reading. Mary [is] sewing buttons on Follen's gaiters, or shoes. I have not read any this evening, the first that I have spent without [reading] for many evenings.

December 22: Friday.

Last Sunday I was taken with palpitation at James Sampson's at noon, just as I was vaccinating his family. I said nothing about it, but came home and it never went off from me till 10 P.M. I several times have thought that if I kept on my feet or cont'd. to ride for an hour or two, then laid down, that it passed off more quickly. I tried it after dinner by riding 8 miles, in much suffering, but it did not succeed. William was here during the evening, which helped it along. Soon after he left it went away.

The Wharton trial drags slowly along, and we have not been sent for yet. The testimony is hard on her now.

Dr. Charles Foulke is very sick, and I have been sent for to see him, but I cannot go, as I have been suffering from Neuralgia in the back, over the rump, and down the legs every day, so that I have to take 1 gr. Morph. daily to make me so that I can be free of pain & attend to my business. I have suffered a good deal today. Day before yesterday, Annie Bacon & her Cousin from Illinois came here with their trunks to stay a week or two to get away from the small pox, which is now in Chas. Bacon's house. Dr. Van Horn's wife, niece of Chas. Bacon, has it. It is carrying off about 200 every week in Philad. The little girls got frightened & "Uncle Robert" asked Follen to see if we would allow them to come up awhile. As Mother and the children have no objections, I told him to invite them. They were delighted and came up with Follen on Wednesday evening. So we have them here now.

December 27: Wednesday.

Last Saturday, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>, we heard of Dr. Foulke still being very ill. On Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>, while at dinner, our son-in-law Jaywood Lukens came here with a telegram to go at once to New Hope as Dr. Foulke was very ill. At 3 P.M., wife & myself went in the big carriage, having two horses & John to drive them. It was a pleasant day & we had a comfortable ride, arriving there at 8 o'clock. We found him insensible. Next morning he was slightly better. We left in the afternoon (Christmas Day) at 3 P.M. and got safely home at 8 P.M. We heard next day that he was worse and today (Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup>) he is still worse. At 7 o'clock this evening, Dr. Ellwood Corson came down from Norristown with a telegram for me from Mrs. Wharton's Counsel, desiring our immediate attendance. I dressed speedily to join brother William at 9 o'clock & go in the train to Philad. When we got to Norristown Wm. & myself concluded not to go until tomorrow at 11 A.M. from Philad.

December 30: Saturday.

Brother William, Benjm. Hughes, W. H. Holstein & myself left Philad. Thursday at 11 A.M., arrived at Annapolis at 6 ½ P.M. Put up at the Maryland House, a very fine Hotel. Went to bed at 9 P.M. About 10 o'clock, the Counsel for Mrs. Wharton, John H. Thomas & Mr. ---- [empty space] came to our room to hear what we could say. Wm. got up and dressed himself. I staid in bed and talked with them. They staid about an hour, then left us with the promise to decide in the morning whether they would use Insanity as a defense. If not, we could go home.

Next morning, Friday 9<sup>th</sup>, Wm. got up before me and after having spent a good deal of time in washing and dressing, I saw him looking anxiously here & there all about the room, and he finally told me he had lost his teeth, four lower teeth on a gold plate with a broad hook at each end. He made a thorough search, taking off any particle of bed clothes, and examining wash basin, mantel, chairs, clothes, carpet, &c., and finally concluded he had swallowed them. "Yes he must have done it, where else could they be?" I jumped out of bed, opened all the shutters, put on a big gas light, and went over the whole room. Finally we gave it up, and as he could not recollect having taken them out after the lawyers had gone, we concluded he really had swallowed them. "Well, said he, I wonder if they can go through." I assured him that they could, and yet I had serious

misgivings about it. He prepared to go down & I went to wash myself. Said he, that basin does not hold water very well, you will have to be quick. I put down the plug in the bottom and found it would not fit. So I putting on my spectacles, I examined it, and lo! Down in the orifice were William's teeth. In triumph I held them up. He could scarcely believe that I had them and was real happy when he saw that they were really there.

A few minutes before ten o'clock, Mrs. Wharton & Daught[er] & their lady friends were seated in the Court House, & Mr. Holstein at once joined them. As soon as I came in, Mr. H. called me to them. I shook the hand of Miss Nellie who was nearest me, then gave my hand to Mrs. Wharton. Both were heavily veiled, black veils. I exchanged a few words with Miss Nellie and as the Court was then ready for business, I withdrew. When the Counsel, Mr. Thomas, came in, he informed me that they decided to risque [sic] her case without resorting to Insanity for defense. So we were ready to return, especially as they could not venture to use us as witnesses for character lest in the cross examination, they would drag out of us something about her sham wedding and her almost criminal expenditures in Philad. 30 years ago. After one or two unimportant witnesses were disposed of, McCullup [sic], Chemical Expert, was put on the stand by the Defense. From 10 ½ A.M. till 3 P.M., he was on the stand, and knocked the evidence of Aikin & Tonry,<sup>clxxiii</sup> who were experts for the prosecution, quite out of sight. The Court room was crowded with people. Ladies were numerous. Several ladies sat within the bar as friends of Mrs. Wharton. Chemists, Doctors, Army & Navy officers were quite plenty. Every question was put in a low tone. The utmost silence prevailed, and every face was anxious. At 3:45 P.M. we left for home, arrived at the Continental in Philad. at midnight.

I heard before leaving Philad. on my way down that Dr. Foulke had died, and now going to the car office at 9<sup>th</sup> & Green, I found wife, Follen, Frannie, Bertha & others there on their way to the funeral. They were not willing I should go along. So I came home in the 11 A.M. train, where I found much business awaiting me, and I had at once to go to work.

Nancy Bacon & Lillie Bacon left here when our people went to the funeral. They were very pleasant girls, and I feel as though the house is very lonely now without them & our children.

**Editor's note:** At this point in Diary Book V is pasted a long three column article clipped from the *Philadelphia Evening Bulletin*. It is a translation from L' Histoire d'un Paysan of Erckmann-Chatrian, describing "The Introduction of Vaccination Into Alsace."

## 1872

January 20: Saturday.

The letter along side is from Professor Wood of Philad. in response to one from me on the morning of the New Year 1872, in which I spoke of his great literary labors in the cause of Medicine, and in which I wished him not only length of days but a happy and blessed "New Year."

Have been practicing very busily ever since my return from Annapolis. The trial is not yet concluded. The lawyers for the defense are through their speeches, except

apart of Mr. Steel's. He got sick today and was compelled to desist. So the Court adjourned until Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>.

We got a letter from Joseph today. His letters are much delayed by the immense snows, blocking up the cars on the U.P.R.R. We also got a letter from Frannie who is staying for a few days at New Hope. Uncle Jesse is staying a few days with us. The weather is very mild, and I have an additional man who turns trees for me so as to be forward with our work in the spring. Had another letter yesterday from a physician in New Jersey, wanting advice in respect to the cold treatment in Scarlet Fever & Diphtheria. Public attention is pretty well awakened to it in the minds of the readers of the *Reporter*, the paper in which I published my papers.

January 30: Tuesday.

We were startled this morning to hear that James Cresson, Father of William (our son-in-law) fell dead about half an hour after breakfast, as he was coming into the house from the barn. He scarcely lived two minutes after he fell. He lived for many years close neighbor to us, where General Fritz now lives, and we have been intimate with the family ever since he came to the county, now about 30 years.

February 3: Friday [Saturday].

Mother & Mary & myself attended the funeral, both at the house and at the grave at Laurel Hill. It was a beautiful day and after the ceremonies were over, we walked down to the graves of Edward, Carry & their grandmother. They are only a very short distance from Mr. Cresson's lot.

February 8: Thursday.

Fearing that no one would write an obituary, I penned a short one myself, which appears in the *Herald & Free Press* today and which I will paste here.

Mr. Cresson's wife, formerly Miss Mary Leedom, daughter of Jonathan Leedom of Philad., was very ill at the time of his death. He left 2 sons, Clarence the eldest, in business in Philad., and William, my son-in-law, doing business in Conshohocken with his brother-in-law, Wm. Wright, formerly of Columbia, Lancaster Co., also two daughters, Frances the eldest married to William Wright, and Mary, unmarried.

He resided in Norristown, a couple of Squares from my daughter's house, on Marshall St., and was engaged in carrying on a large Cotton Manufactory.

Frannie returned from New Hope on Monday evening last, glad to get home, & we very glad to see her. We see by the papers that the Union Pacific R. Road is still blocked with snow, and of course we do not hear from Joseph. But as soon as the mail shall get through we will likely have a good lot, as he writes every week & yet we have not heard for two weeks, or more.

February 20: Tuesday.

We had a letter from Joseph yesterday, the first in a whole month, which seems a long time when we consider that we have always had one a week. But the Union Pacific R. Road has been so blocked with snow for 5 weeks that no trains could come East. How the letter got through we cannot derive, as no trains have come. The letter is dated just one month ago and states that he had everything packed ready to leave as soon as his

“leave” should arrive. Of course he will not start till the Telegraph announces the road clear.

I have had “a wretched cold” for two weeks, but as I cough but seldom in the daytime & not at all by night (it being allayed by ¼ gr. Morph. at bed-time), I am only inconvenienced by the hoarseness.

In a correspondence with Dr. Weir Mitchell<sup>clxxiv</sup> a few days since on the subject of “Blood poisons,” he asked me to apply to Prof. Henry of Smithsonian Institution at Washington, using his name, for a copy of his work on the “venom of the Rattlesnake.” I wrote Prof. Henry and here today is his answer:

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION,  
WASHINGTON, FEBY. 19<sup>TH</sup>, 1872

Dear Sir:

We have your letter of Feby. 15<sup>th</sup>  
and take pleasure in complying with your request  
for a copy of Dr. Mitchell’s paper on the “venom  
of the Rattlesnake.” We trust it will reach you safely  
and prove of interest in your investigation of the subject  
of “blood poisons.” Yours very truly,

Signed: Joseph Henry  
Secty. S. Inst.

H. Corson, Conshohocken, Pa

Tom Foulke, Dr. Charles Foulke’s son, came here, by my invitation, this evening to stay a couple of weeks, that I can see what he knows and what he can do. He was a year in a drug store (wholesale) in Philad., but as he would not study, thought he could not, they would not keep him. He is now of age or thereabouts and knows not what to do. The misfortune is, he has but little common school education, to use a common phrase, “he is a miserable scholar.” I do not see exactly what I can do with him, but nous verrons.

Two weeks ago Ellwood & myself operated on Elias Hicks Corson. The radical operation for Hydrocele. He has been very ill since, & I have been so uneasy about him for several nights that I could not sleep. But thank Providence he is better now.

February 27: Tuesday.

I was in Philad. to see some of my medical friends, and while in Follen’s room about 11 o’clock, he rec’d. a telegram from Joseph, dated Chicago, that he would be in Philad. to go up with him (Follen) on Friday (day after tomorrow) [should be 2 days after tomorrow], March 1<sup>st</sup> in the evening.

March 1: Friday.

So sure enough, they came in the 5 P.M. train. It is almost two years since he was last home. All this time he has been at “Forts” on or near to the U.P.R.R. in Wyoming Territory. Nearly all the time at Fort Bridger, 200 miles from Salt Lake City.

He has had, as they say, a pleasant time, attending to the sick in the Fort, as well as those along this line of the Rail Road for 150 miles or so.

March 9: Saturday.

Aunt Harriet came this evening. She looks pretty well, but shows somewhat the effects of her recent troubles, losing her husband, Dr. Charles Foulke, and finding his affairs in such a condition that she is left with nothing but the house.

Aunt Harriet, Joseph K. Corson & Thos. Foulke all being with us now, it makes a pleasant time, or rather a more bustling time, being so many more of us.

**Editor's note:** In the following four pages in the diary are pasted pictures from photographs of "THE LATE SIR JAMES CLARK, BART., M.D., THE LATE PROF. GEORGE T. ELLIOT, M.D., THE LATE PROF. NIEMEYER, M.D., SIR JAMES YOUNG SIMPSON, BART., M.D., D.C.L., all taken from the N.Y. Medical Journal. On the fourth of these pages is also pasted a newspaper clipping of the obituary of Dr. Lester C. Dolley.

March 10: Sunday.

Staid in nearly all day.

April 12: Friday.

On April 6 (Friday) [should be Saturday] at 11 A.M., I rec'd. from telegraph office at Conshohocken a telegram from my niece Sarah Dolley, M.D. of Rochester, N. York, asking me to come there at once to see Dr. Dolley, her husband. That evening at 6.30', I left the West Philad. Depot, by the Pa. Central R. Road, and took a sleeping car (was too the only person in one of the large Pullman Cars) and passing via Harrisburg, Williamsport & Elmira, reached Canandaigu[a] at 8 ½ or 9 A.M. Having slept all the way to Elmira from Philad., after breakfast at Canandaigu[a], went on & reached Rochester at 11 A.M. Dr. Dolley had been dead 3 hours when I arrived. This was on Saturday. He had been taken ill just one week before, and the Doctors termed his disease Spotted Fever. I staid until the funeral, which took place on Tuesday at Mount Hope, was over, and next morning at 7:15 left in the train for home by way of the Lehigh Valley Road. Arrived in Philad. at 10:40 P.M., at Norristown Depot at 11 P.M. At 11 ¾ P.[M.] left for Conshohocken. There being no carriage for me there, I walked home where I arrived at a little after one A.M. on Thursday morning, Ap. 11<sup>th</sup>.

While at Rochester, by request of the Editor of the Democrat, I wrote an Obituary of Dr. Dolley, which on its appearance was received with great favor, and pronounced true & beautiful.

My old friends, William Hallowell & wife, had me there to dinner, and Mrs. H. took me to the University to see the Mineralogical Cabinet. Doctors Moore, Craig Dean, Hazeltine & Ely all called upon me and were very pleasant. Prof. Latimer also called with his wife and were very agreeable.

Obituary pasted on opposite leaf.

April 28: Sunday.

Since April 11<sup>th</sup> when I arrived from Rochester, I have been very busily engaged

in practice, and in directing farming operations. From 5 A.M. until 10 P.M., I am just as busy as a man can be, riding many miles (twenty or thirty) daily and visiting many patients.

Joseph had attended very well to my practice. Yesterday & today I have attended to it myself. Joseph had been in town all day buying articles for his friends in Wyoming. He intends leaving for the Fort next Thursday, to go by way of St. Louis & Omaha, where he desires to make visits.

Since I am home, Joseph staid but one week, leaving here on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> of May [sic]. Since then we have had letters from him from St. Louis & Omaha. At both places he spent a little time with several friends.

Little Frannie, Bertha's daughter has been here several days. She has had [w]hooping cough but is now nearly well. She is a dear little child.

Doctor Ann Preston of Philad., one of the Professors of the Women's Medical College was buried last Monday from her residence at 1015 Cherry Street. I attended the funeral, at least went to the house. She was a friend of mine and I a friend of hers. I strove hard at our Medical meetings of the State Society to abolish all regulations against women practitioners and finally succeeded. In looking on the face of my deceased friend, I thought I had never seen a face so beautiful & chaste in death. And never did I see a corpse kissed by so many people. The ladies passed in streams by the coffin and series of them stooped to kiss that clear face.

I have written a great many letters since my return home, and have finished an article on Measles and sent it for publication to "The Medical & Surgical Reporter" in Philad. There is a party headed by Senators Trumbull and Schurz trying to prevent President Grant from being re-nominated for the Presidency. The convention will meet this week at Cincinnati. I think Grant has done well and [I] will stick [with] him, I think.

May 1: Wednesday.

5 ½ o'clock. Have been up some time, out to see the men and arrange the work for the day. The weather is very dry, but the grass around the house is growing finely and the flowers are covering the plum trees & peach trees and early cherries. I have two color'd men. One, Mordecai West, a fine farmer, lives in the house below and boards himself; the other, Joe, has his meals with us, but sleeps at Mordecai's.

The American Medical Association will meet next Tuesday in Philad., were I expect to meet many friends. As Chairman of the Board of Censors, I have business with a number, there being difficulties in two Societies.

May 5: Sunday.

Here I am about to paste a beautiful little poem which I have just cut out of the Sunday paper, "Growing Old Together" is the title of it. It is beautiful.

Also will paste here "Sea Anemones," an interesting history of the lowest forms of animal life.

I have practiced a great deal today, although when I got up I thought I would do but little but go to see what I could for Doctor Stiles of Conshohocken, who is sick. But being sent for several times, I had to go.

My nephew Marcus Heilaner Corson is very, very ill with consumption. Can last but a short time. Poor fellow! So young & so talented and just living with Death



calling to him any moment. Sudden death is a boon to be desired, instead of such as that, and yet in the Episcopal services there is a prayer to be relieved from sudden death. He knows so well all the symptoms of that dread disease and sees them following each other so regularly, showing that the disease is still making head-way and he helpless before it. It is a fearful condition.

May 21: Tuesday.

Noon. The weather has been very dry ever since [my] last writing, scarcely a drop of rain. Many things have been done since. The annual meeting of the American Medical Association was held in Philad., and I attended during two days. Met many friends and some strangers were introduced to me who were desirous to make my acquaintance, and to compliment me for writing on S[carlet] Fever, Diphtheria, & Food for Infants. I have rec'd. great praise for those little publications. Last week I also published an article on Measles, in the "Medical & Surgical Reporter." My brother Dr. Wm. Corson says it is still better than the others. I rec'd. a letter yesterday from a Doctor Hall of Chicago, asking me for a copy of "Food for Infants."

Horace Greeley has been nominated by some disappointed Republicans, for President of the U. States, at a convention held in Cincinnati this month. They call themselves "Liberal Republicans," and expect the Democratic Party, which is now nearly extinct, to join them against Grant who is to be the candidate of the Republican Party. How they will prosper we will see. I have just found in my pocket a scrap of a speech by Horace, which I will paste here. He is a great man, but I think he would not make a good President as he is very vacillating [sic] & benevolent and pretty easily duped.

May 26: Sunday.

Death & funeral of Dr. Marcus Corson, son of my brother George Corson & Martha Maulsby Corson., his wife. Marcus had some hemorrhages even before he began to study medicine, while he was in attendance at the Literary department of the University of Pa. We therefore deemed it best to stop further study in that Institution, and as he was very desirous to study medicine, and as we thought he might ride over the country with me with advantage, he commenced to study with me. Before taking his tickets the first winter, I had him examined by Professor Stillé, who thought if he would not stick too closely to it, he might attend the lectures. From that time until he graduated in the spring of 1871, he got along very well, but had some hemorrhage.

After graduation he seemed anxious to practice and he did something for me in that way, but before the summer was over, he had hemorrhages and it appeared that the disease was making progress. From the setting in of winter, it was plain that he could not be exposed in practice at night. But he rode about a good deal through the winter in fine weather. Towards the first of April, his sister Helen, who was much engaged in her "Art Studies" in Philad. in the day-time, was compelled to give them up and devote her time wholly to him. From that time until his death last Thursday May 23<sup>rd</sup>, she never left him for more than a few hours on rare occasions. Every day that was at all tolerable, she took him out in the carriage and rode a few miles, often stopping at our home, to dinner or supper, and often at Aunt Alice Albertson's, & other of his relatives. He lost his voice months ago; his throat has been very sore for months, so that swallowing was very painful to him. He gradually wasted, but was still able to get into the carriage and ride a

few miles daily. On Wednesday last he had a short ride and, though he had for a few days not been able to eat but very little. Still he went to bed about 9 P.M. as usual. But at eleven he awakened Helen and she found him, very faint as it were, and with a sense of impending death. He wished her to send for me, and before 12 I was with him. He was propped up with pillows and with a pulse scarcely perceptible, but anxious and watching every movement of mine with intense interest, wished to know if I could feel his pulse, and if I thought he would get over the spell of oppression. Helen stood by the bed fanning him and supporting his shoulder on hers. I helped to fan him, but he seemed to think Helen could do it better. So we worked on through the night.

The morning came at last, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Thursday. But at 3 o'clock I got him to allow me to put him on the big sofa on which he was accustomed to lie every day while down stairs. So I had it carried up stairs close to the bed and putting several pillows on one end, laid him on his side, and though at first he thought he could not stay there, he became easier, and finally seemed to lie in an easy way. I sent for Aunt Alice Albertson (his mother's sister) at day-light, also for his brother Ellwood. They came promptly, and I came home for a short time, returned again soon, and staid till nearly noon, then returned to dinner. He seemed pretty easy. Alice sat fanning him. Helen lay down for a brief span on the bed. Ellwood had been asked to go down to dinner, and as Alice was fanning him, she thought he breathed very quietly, and on looking at him searchingly for a moment, saw that he had passed away for ever.

After an hour had passed, Mother & myself laid him on the bed & she and Alice prepared the body for internment. We thought we would have no stranger's hands upon him. On the following Sunday at 2 ½ P.M., a very large concourse of friends of the family gathered at the house and buried him at the feet of his parents. He was a youth of surpassing talent, & of a most Roman virtue.

A few days before the death of Marcus, L. E. Corson, son of my brother Alan W. Corson, died in the Kirkbride Hospital. He had a softening of the brain for months, and his mind becoming greatly disordered, it was thought better to put him there. He gradually lost his memory & became unable to recognize those of his own household. He was buried from his home in Norristown, nearly opposite to the residence of my brother William Corson, M.D.

June 10: Monday.

Since the death of Marcus, I have been greatly engaged in practicing and reading & writing. I am preparing the Report for the State Society, from our county. Have had one very hard case of small pox. Which I have had to nurse as well as "Doctor."

June 12: Wednesday.

Last evening my niece, Dr. Sarah Read Adamson Dolley, widow of Dr. Lester Clinton Dolley of Rochester, N. York, came here from Philad. to stay all night with us. She brought an ovariectomy patient with her to Philad. to be operated on. We had an interesting evening, Mother, myself, Follen & Mary.

This morning I took Sarah & my wife, whom I familiarly call "mother," with the children, to Norristown. After spending a little time with my nieces, Hannah Schultz & Mary Roberts, I took Mary & Mrs. Dolley to Bridgeport & put them on the Cars for Phoenixville where they are going to see Sarah's parents, Charles Adamson & Mary, the

latter being my sister, now about 80 years of age. I then took Mother to spend the day with Tacie, our daughter, and I came home.

It is now 9 P.M. and Follen has just brought Mother home, fortunate enough too, for a thunderstorm is just coming up.

Brother William left last night for Franklin (in the "Oil Regions") to attend the State Medical Meeting. I declined to go this year.

July 4: Thursday.

The weather has been hotter for 4 days than I almost ever felt, 103° in Chestnut St., Philad. one day.

July 8: Monday.

In May I wrote that Horace Greeley had been nominated by the Liberal Republicans in Convention at Cincinnati for President. It is now apparent that tomorrow (July 9<sup>th</sup>), the Democrats in Convention at Baltimore will also nominate him. Then the contest will be between Grant & Greeley, the democrats as a great organization, having no place save as aids to the Liberal Republicans, who are mainly disappointed politicians.

Things have been working along very well for some weeks at home. At present Bertha & her children are here. Beautiful little things, Frannie & Thomas. I have done a very pleasant practice and have already collected about 3000 Dollars this year.

September 2: Monday.

6 ½ o'clock. Wife has been several days up with daughter Tacie, who expects to be sick daily. Richard R. Corson & wife have been here several days, the former only at nights. He is greatly engaged in getting up the National-Air-Line-Rail Road, from Washington to N. York, and the Pa. Central Road is endeavoring by their immense power to prevent it. There will be a trial in the Supreme Court today about it.

Death of J. Cresson Jones, son of my niece Sarah Jones, widow of Charles Jones: He graduated one year ago at the Polytechnic College, since which time he has been actively engaged in his business on Rail Roads. This summer he was engaged to lay out a Rail-Road from Philad. to Newtown, Bucks Co. After being on it a short time, his disease of the heart, with which he has been long afflicted, became so bad that he had to resign. He only lived two weeks afterwards. [He] was buried last Monday afternoon.

I have done a great deal of practice the past month and have not been able to go to the Sea-Shore, as I expected to do. We have great quantities of fruit, apples, pears, plums, grapes, peaches, cantaloupes [sic], corn for boiling, tomatoes, cucumbers, Lima Beans, &c., and I have eaten freely of them all. Fruits of these kinds are very good for the body. There are many causes of ill health but many of them might be avoided. I find so many people afraid to eat fruit and yet are in the daily violation of the plainest rules of health in other ways. I am now nearly 68 years of age, and even now I think I may, if I try, break through habits which are injurious. I will try. But again, are we at all sure what conduces to health? Here comes a boy after me.

September 3: Tuesday.

Among many other patients, I yesterday visited, at Isaac Roberts, his brother-in-law John Bacon, who has been sick a whole year. [He] had first an attack of

“Congestive Chills;” since, spells of pain in head occasionally. To speak plainly, he is a hypochondriac. His friends think he has Liver complaints & kidney complaints. I examined him carefully and am quite sure, if he will exert himself, take exercise & not be afraid that everything he does will hurt him, that he will be well as [soon] as a month. I write this without any holder for my pen.

September 11: Wednesday.

Saw John Bacon yesterday. He has taken my advice and endeavored to walk & ride. At first he thought he could not go more than a few steps, or ride a few hundred yards. Today he seems almost well, rides six or seven miles at a trip & walks freely. This man has been for a whole year a victim to the long face and plaintive fearful voice of the Doctor, who has hinted about “liver complaint,” “kidney affection,” “Heart trouble,” “Neuralgia,” &c., &c.

About 3 weeks ago, I was called to a child 1 ½ years old, emaciated to the last degree. It had been for two months under the care of two Doctors, first one then another.

September 25: Wednesday.

William Dewees died on 16<sup>th</sup>, will be buried next Monday, kept 6 days [actually 7 days]. He was 4 years older than I am, but I have known him intimately from infancy. He was a very fine man, and a good shoe-maker. He followed that trade ever since he was 14 years old. Nearly all my early companions are gone. There are yet Dr. E. C. Leedom, Thomas Livezey, Wm. Wills, my brothers William & Charles & Alan, and those nearly complete the list. I should have named also Henry Dull.

Attended W. Dewees’ funeral on Monday and practiced a good deal. Very, very hot. Yesterday also was very hot. Today the East P. & Montgomery Co. Agricultural Fair was to begin. There were thousands of school children there, as the Directors of Public Schools, teachers & children were all invited, also the County & State Superintendents of public schools, all free.

I have 6 young men & women. All men but two with Remittent fever, and a number of other patients.

Dr. Schoeppe, his trial and unjust acquittal. Dr. Wood & his shameless testimony. The murderer of Miss Steinecke, who was convicted & sentenced to be hanged two years ago, has had a new trial and has been acquitted. The Judge thanking God that “the former Judge and Jury were relieved from having caused the death of an innocent man.” Never was there a more guilty man than Schoeppe, never a weaker judge than Judge ----- [name not given], nor a more subservient jury than the one which had this case in hand.

The physician who outraged Justice and violated honesty & truth, who held back truth and practiced to mislead & confuse judge & jury, was Dr. Horatio Wood of Philad. I have had some correspondence with Doctor Keiffer of Carlisle on the subject, and he is anxious that our correspondence should be published. I may yet write something on the matter.

October 3: Thursday.

6 A.M. Last Saturday night about 11 ½ o’clock, Dr. Lewis W. Read called me and wished [me] to go with him to see the wife of Henry S. Hitner. He stated then, on

the evening before, Friday evening at 8 o'clock, after she had spent part of the day at Norristown & at the "Fair," and after having eaten a good supper, she was taken with a pain in her side, and as Dr. Leedom had in former times attended her in two spells of what he called gravel, he was sent for. Dr. Oscar, his son, went and gave her Morpheum in two doses quickly repeated. And as Mrs. Eghart, who was present, saw that she was not complaining so much of pain but was becoming somewhat flighty, she asked him not to give any more, but still he gave another dose. After that she seemed to sleep so wearily & in so distressed [a manner], they sent for Dr. Lewis W. Read of Norristown, my nephew, who arrived about midnight (Friday night). The great contractions of the pupils and deep sleep inclined him to the belief that it was narcolism [sic] from Morpheum. But in the hope that she would come out of it by morning, and deeming it a safe case as Dr. said he only gave one grain, they waited till near day-light, and then, as she could always be aroused so as to know them and answer questions, they went home, promising to return at 9 A.M.

Dr. Read returned (Dr. Leedom did not come again at all). Sometime during the day Dr. Read began to give Belladonna as an antagonistic to the opium, but it failed (in his doses), and then tried Galavanism [sic] which also failed. Then being greatly alarmed he came for me. I found her almost pulseless and wholly insensible, but the pupils [were] natural in size but immovable. Dr. R. thought the pupils were being acted on by the Belladonna, but as he had only given 30 drops Fld. Ext. Belladonna, it is doubtful whether the dilatation was not carried by the condition which dilates them in compression when near death. Her face was quite flushed and dark. I proposed pouring water on the head. It was done and after several minutes, the pulse was more easily felt and, though I could not count more than a few (four or five) pulsations before they would seem to run together. It must have ranged over a hundred in a minute. She seemed also to be startled by calling her name in a loud voice, so as to open her eyes, but close them again instantly. The water was used a few times, but she went on & died at 5 ½ A.M. on Sunday morning. The daughters were firmly of the opinion that she was dying from too great a dose of Morpheum.

Last evening I had a palpitation of the Heart about 6 P.M., which lasted me half an hour. But as we had Hannah Bacon & her children here and were every moment expecting her husband Frank Bacon, and our son Follen up from Philad., I quietly slipped out to the office and took some medicine, then up to bed & lay down. It went off before the men got from the Cars and so our folks knew nothing of it. I must be careful to prevent this.

Splendid weather. Want to finish seeding our corn-ground today.

October 4: Friday.

Practiced until noon. Attended the funeral of Mrs. Hitner in the afternoon. Many people. Saw several old friends. My daughter Susan spent the day here & her husband came to tea and spent the evening.

October 5: Saturday.

Delightful morning. Wife & Susan Lukens (our daughter) are going to the city, I think "to look at carpets." A wonderful experience there is in living now. I wrote a

letter last evening to Dr. R. S. Hall of Chicago, and one to Dr. A. H. Halberstadt of Pottsville, both in reply.

October 28: Monday.

5 ½ o'clock. Since last writing, the weather has been delightful until the last three days, and practicing [was] delightful, though two of my long known acquaintances have died & been buried. Nathan Conrad & Eliza Miller (née Hagy). Not only that, my birthday was on the 8<sup>th</sup> of the month, and at breakfast I found some nice presents on my plate from wife & Follen, Frannie & Mary. So I am now in my 69<sup>th</sup> year, and yet doing a large practice, having collected nearly \$4000 this year, & two months of it are yet to come.

Wrote many letters last night, one to Dr. Hall of Chicago, one to Dr. Mansfield.

We have been having our house papered and painted down stairs, and it is now completely renovated.

November 8: Friday.

U.S. Grant re-elected President [of the] U.S. The election was held last Tuesday, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>, and it now appears Grant is re-elected by an immense majority. Pennsylvania gave the unparalleled majority of 115,000 for Grant. Mr. Horace Greeley, the opposition candidate, has again resumed the editorship of the Tribune.

The Horse Disease.

It is only about 3 weeks since it first appeared in the U.S. First in N. York State at Rochester, and now is everywhere in the U. States.

On Wednesday morning 6<sup>th</sup>, I first heard my big black mare cough, and now she is already discharging at the nose; and the other three horses are all affected. Business is suspended in the neighborhood. Yesterday, a rainy day, not a horse was to be seen even in the great thoroughfare Conshohocken. I was out all day with my black horse. At present the Black Mare alone is fit to drive. Nearly every passenger car in the city is stopped. Indeed there are no horses to be seen in the street. The disease thus far has not been very fatal. People are taking extra care of their horses. I am not able to take great care of mine.

Dr. Richard C. Foulke's wife has been here for a week. A very agreeable little woman. This evening Frannie, Follen, Mrs. Foulke and Mary are all to tea at Jaywood Lukens. Richard Foulke also will be there this evening, and I have sent my man, Peter Smith, with the carriage for them. And as it now is about 9 o'clock, they will soon be at home.

No body at home all this evening but wife & myself.

November 10: Sunday.

The horse disease is still bad. My horses are all affected, but I hope not dangerously. Practiced in forenoon. "Jay and Susan" walked up to see us. Many people have no horses to use. There were but three carriages at Orthodox Meeting today. Some of the old members walked at least two miles.

November 11: Monday.

This morning the papers are filled with accounts of a great fire in Boston. It

appears almost to have rivaled the great fire of Chicago less than one year ago.

I have many interesting cases of disease on hand now, three cases of jaundice, one of disease of heart, one of ascites, one of open cancer of the breast, one uterine tumor & others of less gravity.

Every day I practice from morning until night. The men have just finished our corn. We have fully 250 bushels. We have had a great deal of cider made, having had hundreds of bushels of apples during the fall. We make 12 pounds of butter every week. Have made apple butter. Have plenty of eggs, beets, cabbage, potatoes, milk, &c. I mention those things because I desire to show how abundantly we are supplied from our small farm of about 28 acres. Our wheat will yield probably 60 bushels

November 24: Sunday.

Joseph telegraphed yesterday from Pittsburg [sic], that he was on his road home and would be in Philad. this morning, so as we supposed he would come up this morning. Follen & myself went to Conshohocken to meet the 9 A.M. train, and sure enough he was on board, and we brought him home. He is bronzed-looking but healthy and in good spirits. He has been ordered to report to Philad. It is usual when a surgeon has been a few years in the West, to give him an Eastern Station.; and I suppose that is the object now. Bertha is here on a visit and Jay & Susan came up, so we were all together except Tacie & her family.

December 1: Sunday.

Mother, Joseph, Follen, Mary & myself have all been engaged around the table writing & reading & talking from supper until 10 P.M. Joseph & myself have had some very interesting patients too today, and at one P.M., I attended the funeral of an old resident of this township, Amos Phipps, at Plymouth Meeting House. The house was very full, and the silence, and I might add the solemnity, were intense, until the preacher's got to work. Much preaching seems to destroy the feeling of solemnity.

Last Saturday week, I had a pretty severe palpitation of the heart, lasting about 3 hours, and last Friday I had another lasting 5 hours.

Our son Charles Follen Corson, practicing Law in Philad. for a few years past, entered into partnership, the first of the present month, with Lawyers John Goforth & Wm. H. Yerkes by their urgent request. He [is] to have 1/6 of all fees collected by them all, each one though to have his own audits. He thinks he will realize between 2 & 3000 Dollars in a year.

December 4: Wednesday.

This day the Hon. Horace Greeley was buried in New York by a sorrowing people, gathered from many States of the Union. The papers are filled with accounts of the manifestations of sorrow exhibited everywhere in the country. All feel that there is a deep sorrow in the Land, for the premature death for a good and great man. A tragic death of one of our noblest citizens, a man of wonderful mind of great industry, of irrepressible life, of deep devotion to the good not only of his country, but of the world of humanity everywhere. Not even the tragic death of the great & good Lincoln produced a deeper, more profound grief, in all classes from the most eminent Statesman to the poorest laborer.

After the nomination at Cincinnati was accepted by the Baltimore Convention of Democrats and he was finally declared the nominee for the Presidency, by the Democrats and the Liberal Republicans, there seemed to be a prospect that he might defeat Grant. He resigned as editor of the *Tribune* & commenced to travel to various parts of the U. States, addressing wherever he stopped, large crowds of people who were gathered at Rail Road Stations & in towns, anxious to see & hear the man of whom they had heard so much, the author of the world renowned "Tribune." So he cont'd. traveling and speaking, until within a few days of the Pa. October Election. The most terrible efforts had been put forth to defeat Hartranft, the Republican candidate for Governor, by a series of defamations of the grossest kind, made by the Liberal Republicans as well as by the Democrats, and it was confidently behind that if Hartranft could be defeated at the October election in Pa., Greeley would carry the State in November. The parties too had before been nearly balanced in Pa., and the "Press" of Philad, edited by John W. Forney, was one of the most terrible assailants of Hartranft, although professing to be, as he had been for many years, a staunch Republican & Grant man. The fate of the parties in Pa. seemed to be in doubt, up to the very day of Election, and Greeley & his friends awaited the result of the day with intense anxiety and high hope. Mr. Greeley was at the time in attendance at the bed-side of a dying wife at his home. The election came & Hartranft swept the State by a majority of 135,000 votes, New York State by an immense majority in view of the fact that it was confidently counted for Mr. Greeley, and so went every Northern State almost.

Mr. Greeley saw all his high hopes blasted. Not only was he defeated, he was mortified beyond endurance by the astounding result. His supposed popularity seemed only a mocking. To add to his misfortunes, his dear wife died only a few days afterwards. After that nothing but faint rumors of his deep grief came to us. Then a week ago, a report that his mind had given way and he had been removed from home. Then it was denied [and] in a few hours again started, then confirmed, followed next day by a report that he was very ill, and in a day or two more that he was dead.

December 7: Saturday.

There are numerous Commendatory Notices of Horace Greeley; his death & funeral are the chief topics of Newspaper men, generally leaders.

December 8: Sunday.

Evening, 9 o'clock. Brother Wm. has just left here. Wife is down at daughter Susan's & will stay all night. Joseph & Frannie are in the parlor, and (just as I wrote the last word in the above line, I was struck by a palpitation of the Heart and had to stop and go to bed, where it cont'd. with me till almost 10 o'clock, when it went off, but I did not get up again).

December 10: Tuesday.

Just wrote the above which is in brackets. Have done a great deal of practice now for months, average more than 15 Dols. per day. That does not seem a great deal to keep a man busy, but I am not doing now as much as formerly, indeed could not do it.

½ past 10 P.M. I have just finished 17 pages of closely written "Fools-cap," on Scarlet Fever, a Review of the Reports on that subject, to the State Medical Society in



1871 for publication in the "Times," A medical journal in Philad. So now I will go to bed.

December 12: Thursday.

Last evening Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>, I had another palpitation which came on me two miles from home, while in the carriage. I rode home and went to bed. It did not leave me till nearly midnight. "The boys," Joseph & Follen were at supper at Lawyer John Goforth's and did not return till just as it went off. In fact it left me a moment before Joseph came into the room. I am beginning to be quite tired about this affection. I seem to have no security about it. It comes upon me as suddenly as comes a flash of lightening, and it utterly disables me from doing anything. Indeed, though I can ride a few miles to reach home, when I once lie down, I can afterwards hardly walk when I attempt it. I am trying to avoid everything which may tend to bring it on. Save that I am so liable to this, I am quite well.

7 A.M. Joseph & Follen are off to the Plymouth Cars on the way to the city, Follen to his office, Joseph to Lectures & Clinics.

December 24: Tuesday.

9 o'clock. Have had no palpitation of heart since last writing, now nearly two weeks. Have done a great deal of profitable & interesting & successful practice since, as Joseph has been pretty steadily on attendance of Lectures, Clinics, & Hospitals. Yesterday 23<sup>rd</sup>, Daughter Bertha's husband James Yocom telegraphed for mother & self to come down as Bertha was poorly. We went in the 11 A.M. train. An hour after we arrived, at one o'clock P.M., she had her second daughter born. Bertha Breta [sic] (the German for Elizabeth) Corson Yocom was born today at 2040 Vine Street at one P.M., Dr. James C. Tyson in attendance. I was in the house but did not go into the room till about half an hour afterwards. "Mother" staid and I came home at 5 P.M.

Christmas Eve, 1872. Mother is with Bertha, Joseph, Frannie, Follen and Mary are all in the room, Frannie playing on the piano, while the others sing. "Ann & Emma" are in the kitchen & "Peter" in the Barn with the horses. I intended to write some letters but believe I will put it off to another time & will go early to bed. So all good night. And as the Thermometer is down to 8° Fahren[heit], may the Blessed Providence kindly provide for the poor.

December 25: Wednesday.

Christmas. The boys, Joseph & Follen, went to Conshohocken this morning to get letters and to see patients. On their return they brought me a package from Mrs. Doctor Halberstadt of Pottsville, Pa., which contained a most beautiful "Shawl Strap," part of it, the worked part, of her own work. It was an elegant present, and was accompanied by her Card, with the following note written upon it: "Will Dear Dr. Corson please accept the accompanying trifle from his attached friend?" Mrs. A. Howell Halberstadt. As it is her Husband's name, she might with great propriety have added M.D..

This evening I replied as follows:

Christmas Night,

My Dear Mrs. Halberstadt. Many thanks for your beautiful and useful present which came to me this morning accompanied by your kind note. How pleasant thus to be remembered by the kind and good! Life would indeed be a burthen to us all if the interchange of kind offices were forbidden, and we were strangers to the grateful feelings of Sympathy and Love. Please remember me kindly to your excellent husband, and for yourself & the dear ones who cluster around you accept my kindest wishes for your happiness.

Truly Your Friend,  
Hiram Corson.

December 26: Thursday.

Snowing in the morning, with the thermometer at 9°. Cont'd. snowing rapidly all day & the thermometer not at anytime rising above 13°. I did not go out to practice. Joseph took Follen to the Cars at Conshohocken & visited some patients, and in the afternoon to Barren Hill to visit others. Frannie & Mary were at their sewing, and I read & wrote. Little Frannie Yocum [sic] ran around & talked, and "Ann & Emma" kept themselves busy at their work in the kitchen, Mother still at Bertha's.

December 29: Sunday.

Fine sleighing. Joseph, Follen, Frannie, Mary & "mother" all at home. Little Frannie Yocom has been here for several days and been quite threatened with Croup for two days past. Frannie & myself were so excited & fearful that she would get bad that we sent for Mother to come home. I have been practicing and reading & writing a good deal. Mr. Richard Day, who occasionally visits Frannie, is here this evening. I have read a great deal of the fore-part of the first vol. of Prof. Tulley's work on *Materia Medica* this evening. He is very interesting on the action of medicines. Does not believe that they act by being absorbed into the blood, but by action on the nerves in alimentary canal.

## 1873

January 10: Friday.

I have been practicing much (in the sleigh) for the past two weeks, Joseph assisting me a good deal and attending Lectures at the University occasionally. My Review of the Reports on S[carlet] Fever in "The Transactions" for 1871 has just been published in the "Medical Times" of Philad.

Evening 8 o'clock. Joseph has just gone to George Cress to attend an obstetric for me. Henry Corson & wife, I hear in the parlor, and as they are on the Bridal visit, I must go in.

**Editor's note:** Pasted here in the diary book is a notice to Dr. Corson from the Obstetrical Society of Philadelphia, dated January 5, 1874, announcing that Dr. Hiram Corson was duly elected an Associate Member. Also pasted in the diary are several extensive newspaper articles about "THE CAREER OF LOUIS NAPOLEON, EX-EMPEROR OF FRANCE."

January 22: Wednesday.

I have had no attack of palpitation since Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> until last Saturday, Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>, a period of five weeks & two days, when it occurred and lasted me nine hours. Then it occurred again yesterday evening as I was sitting by the table reading the newspaper. It occurred at 8 P.M. and lasted until 5 ½ this morning. I took nothing at all of medicine till four o'clock. I slept very pretty well, perspired profusely but was not the least thirsty, had no desire to urinate. Formerly, when in the attacks I took various kinds of medicine, I would be very thirsty, would not sleep, would urinate often & copiously. So it seems they are not incidents of the affection, but depend on the medicine. Having thus passed 8 hours without relief, I took ¼ gr. of Morph. at 4 and another at 5, and at 5 ½ got relief. Rose at 7 and feel very well. While this is not a very suffering disease, it is very unpleasant, as I know not when it will come, nor go. "Nor go." Is that right? Should it not be "or go." I think the former right

Rec'd. a very complimentary letter yesterday from a Gentleman in Rhode Island, in relation to my "Review on S[carlet] Fever Reports," published in "The Medical Times." He is desirous to have my Essays printed and will pay for it.

Also rec'd. a flattering letter from Dr. Paxson of Bucks Co., in favor of the Ice treatment in S[carlet] fever. Sent Dr. Powel the documents he wished.

February 3: Monday.

Frannie & myself went to Charles Adamson's, near Phoenixville, to see how himself & "Sister Mary" were getting along. We found Charles dying and Mary confined to bed and quite poorly. Though the sleighing was very good when we went up in the morning, at two o'clock P.M. we left for home in a mingled snow & rain.

February 8: Saturday.

Frannie & myself & Susan (Mrs. Lukens) went to "Uncle Charles Adamson's funeral. The people met at the little Quaker Meeting House near by, at 11 A.M. The relations & intimate friends met a little earlier at the house. Three addresses were made, one by Joseph Daws of "the Valley," a friend, one by Isaac Price, their nearest neighbor, a Mennonist [sic] or Dunkard, and the third by another neighbor (as close to them as Mr. Price) a Methodist, not a preacher. They all spoke in the most quiet, low voice and in the most heartfelt [manner and thus] was paid the warmest tribute to his memory, as a fine, honest, conscientious citizen, neighbor & friend that I ever have heard spoken of any man. His daughter, Sarah R. Dolley, M.D., came home with me & staid all night, then next morning (Sunday) [went] to Philad. Sister Mary was not able to be out of bed the day of the funeral.

I paste here an obituary by the Editor of "The Messenger" of Phoenixville. Charles was in his 82<sup>nd</sup>. Year, and Mary is now in her 81<sup>st</sup> year.

February 9: Sunday.

Very well till 11 o'clock. Was then taken with palpitation of the heart just as Joseph & myself were about to begin a Post Mortem examination of an abdominal cancerous tumor. I cont'd. through it, then came home & went to bed and staid there till after our people had tea, then dressed & came down and took some coffee & toast, &

while I was eating, the palpitation suddenly went off, and I was well as usual. It went off at 7 P.M., being with me just 8 hours.

No palpitation last week, [was] pretty well and practiced a great deal. Joseph went to the city to Lectures almost daily, some days practiced part of the day for me and sometimes all day.

Death of Jesse George. The death of this venerable man and Public Benefactor occurred on Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> of February, 1873. He was quite well on the evening of the 12<sup>th</sup> and retired to his room to sleep, at his usual time. Not rising in the morning, some one went to the room and found him lying on the floor in an insensible condition. The Apoplexy seemed to have occurred before he was undressed as his clothes were but partially removed and the bed was undisturbed. So he must have lain all night on the floor without covering. I believe he never spoke after he was found in that condition. The news of his death was of course announced in every paper in Philad., and his great virtues as a man, and his liberality to the City of Philad, manifested by his great Gift, "George's Hill" containing 83 acres of land as a "Public Park," set forth in terms of praise. Jesse George had four brothers and one sister, Rebecca, none of whom married, though all lived to old age. They all lived together for many years, but some of them finally built fine houses on portions of the large tract of land which they owned and then led bachelor lives. Jesse & Rebecca lived together. As the City spread beyond the Schuylkill River, their property became very valuable. A few years since Jesse & David, through endorsing for friends, lost very largely, indeed so greatly that David's fine farm was swept from him, and he retired to Jesse's where in a few years he died. It was an agreement (it is said) among all the brothers & their sister that on the death of any of them, his estate should go to the survivors. So finally Jesse & Rebecca became a few years since the owners. As the Act establishing a City Park included in the boundaries of said Park a large portion of their farm, the brother & sister concluded to make a free tender of it to the City. The letter sent by Jesse to the "Commissioners of Fair Mount Park" is pasted lower down on this page. The property known as George's Hill is now the most attractive part of the Park and in the summer time, thousands visit it daily. The eulogium passed on the givers by the Press of the City of Philad. have been very numerous. It is now about two years since Miss Rebecca George died. Her death came about in this way. The old lady had always been used to attend to the domestic concerns about the house, and also have a general supervision of the poultry & dairy, and although she always had servants to do the work, she sometimes loved to lend a helping hand. So at the time spoken of, two years ago this spring, she with her girl was about to "set a hen," and she took hold of her when she fluttered & struggled & [a] hen spur, or toe scratched Rebecca on the forehead. The wound became sore very soon & rapidly run into a most malignant ulcer which caused her death in a very short time.

Jesse was then left alone, the last of a loving & long-lived family. He continued to reside in his old home, his faithful housekeeper, Margaret Bell, who had been in his father's family & his own for nearly 60 years, and his servants remaining with him. Thus he cont'd. peacefully and quietly to enjoy himself, visiting his neighbors & friends, and fully engaged in seeing to his houses, stocks, &c., until his last illness which came suddenly upon him as I have recorded on the opposite page.

February 18: Tuesday.

This morning I started to the funeral which was to take place at 11 A.M. On the way to Conshohocken (where I had some patients to visit), I picked up my daughter Susan and took her along. We had a pleasant ride, the day being pleasant and the road, though snowy & rough among the Schuylkill hills, was on the whole pleasant. We were the first to arrive at 10 ½, but directly they began to pour in. Splendid carriages from the city, filled by "Park Commissioners" & Committees from "Councils," the "Mayor and Friends." Almost the first carriage after us, was one bringing Sisters Rebecca Corson & (her sister) Emily Bacon. Promptly at 12 noon the procession began to form, and we proceeded to the "Old Merion Meeting House," where in a vault we deposited his body. Samuel Mason, a very intimate friend of Jesse, & Joseph George invited us so urgently to return to the house that we did so, and as soon as dinner was through (which was not till four o'clock as there were nearly fifty persons to eat), we were all invited (by all I mean the relatives, all of whom, save Joseph & John George, were beyond first cousins) to an up-stairs room. When all were seated, Samuel Mason, who with the two Cousins George were seated at one end, began to read "Jesse's Will." [I was] hoping to see a copy of it published and which I may paste in this book. I will not now go into details, but will merely say that he bequeathed nearly his whole Estate to Asylums for the Insane, to the Pa. Hospital, West Town Boarding School, and other large & well known Institutions and to the various charities & schools for the support & education of the poor Color'd People of Philad. To all his relatives, most of whom were in that room, he left, I think, not more than \$20,000 (twenty thousand Dollars). To John & Joseph George, his first Cousins, his nearest kin, he left \$2000 each. To Mrs. Thompson he left \$2000. Then to his more distant cousins on the George side, he gave smaller sums \$800, \$500, &c. Then to his still more distant relations (but the nearest which he had on his mothers side), the children of my father-in-law Edward Foulke, [of] whom in his will he spoke of as "the children of my Cousin Edward Foulke," he gave as follows: To Nancy Corson, wife of Dr. Hiram Corson \$500; to Jesse Foulke \$500; to Doctor Charles Foulke \$500; to Susan Foulke \$500; to Rebecca Corson, wife of Robert C. Corson \$500; to Hannah Bacon, wife of Francis Bacon \$500; to Emily Bacon, widow of Charles L. Bacon \$500; to Priscilla Wistar, widow of Thomas Wistar \$500. (In the will Priscilla came in her proper place next to Susan). But he forgot that one daughter, Lydia, was deceased. Then in a Codicil, he left to her husband Charles Bacon \$500. Some of us think he should have left it to Lydia's daughter, Annie Bacon, Charles daughter. But it is as well probably that it was left to the father, as the daughter was left a valuable house in Mount Vernon St. After those various bequests, not one half of which I have named, (I also forgot that to his old housekeeper Margaret Bell he left two fine brick houses, all his household furniture then in the homestead, and \$1500 in money), the residue of his Estate he left to his Executors in Trust for the relief of "the poor of the City of Philad.," to be used by the Executors [as] in their discretion may seem best.

February 23: Sunday.

Washington's Birth Day, now being a National Holy Day [sic] and many, indeed I might say all Institutions closed. Edward Wistar, our nephew, came up to spend yesterday, and has remained all night. Last week, our Son Charles F. Corson was appointed by the Governor John F. Hartranft a Notary Public for the City of Philad. The

Governor of New Jersey also sent him a commission, appointing him commissioner for the State of New Jersey. So those two offices may serve him well. He is also since Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> '72 in partnership on the Law with John Goforth, Esq. and Wm. H. Yerkes, Esq., office [at] 217 S. 6<sup>th</sup> St., Philad.

February 27: Thursday.

Had palpitation. [It] took me just as I finished a hearty dinner. I would not lie down, but started for Jeremiah Comforts. Joseph went with me. It went off while talking with my patient. These did not last one hour.

March 3: Monday

Practiced actively Sunday morning. Just after a good dinner, while reading, I was struck with palpitation. I laid down on the sofa a few minutes, then went to bed, staid half an hour, got up & came down stairs, laid on the sofa & in a few minutes it went off.

Ground covered with snow ever since 26<sup>th</sup> of December. Therm. almost to zero at sunrise.

March 4: Tuesday.

President Grant Inaugurated for his second term today at noon. Cold very intense. Never has been so great a ceremony on such an occasion. Thermometer at 6° of F. at sunrise.

March 10: Monday

I was taken with palpitation while eating breakfast, and when a moment before I was feeling very well. Dr. Livezey came in a few minutes and I sat up and talked to him for about three hours. It was an injury to me to do it, I think. Then went to bed and at 2 P.M. it went off.

Morse's Telegraph. Now, when the world is threaded with telegraph wires, it is interesting to know something of its early history. I have therefore pasted this short notice of an Article in "Scribner's Monthly" here, so that those who may never see the Article they may know when & where the first "Telegram" was sent. H.C.

March 14: Friday.

Visit from Judge Carter of Fort Bridger. Yesterday, Joseph & Follen & Frannie brought with them from Philad. Judge Carter, Father of "Miss Ada," to whom Joseph is matrimonially engaged.

We had a pleasant evening and this morning, he went to Philad. with Joseph. "Mother" also went to see our daughter Bertha who, Frannie says, is quite sick. I attended one obstetric case last night and Joseph attended one.

When Follen came home this evening, he reported that Bertha was a little better but that Mother & all of them want me to come down early tomorrow morning. Dr. Tyson told Joseph that he "thinks she is getting Typhoid Fever." I hope not, think not.

Joseph remains in the city tonight to attend a little party of the friends of Dr. Leidy (Prof. Leidy). It will no doubt be a rare collection of men of science.

March 28: Friday.

Two days ago I had a palpitation for a few minutes, perhaps half an hour. Got it while standing at the barn, came in & lay down at once, went off in about half hour. Today while in Geo. Dager's house and seated by the patient's bed, it came on. Visited two patients on my way home, laid myself down in bed, and in less than five minutes it went off.

Bertha has been very sick for two weeks, but is now recovering rapidly. Her mother has been with her two weeks, and Joseph & myself have been down very frequently. Frannie & Mary & Follen have also been to see her several times. Dr. Tyson was daily in attendance.

March 31: Monday.

Did not go out to practice yesterday. Joseph attended to it. Dr. Watson Trego of Newtown, Bucks Co. died a few days ago. He many years ago became a slave to Intemperance & opium. He was a class-mate of mine in the Medical College, as was Doctor Middleton, of Fallsington, who died a few years since, after burying his wife & all his children, six in number.

I wrote two letters yesterday and also an Essay on "the use of opium in Labor."

April 1: Tuesday.

Last evening sat down by myself at 8 o'clock to finish my Essay, the children, with Sam & Ida being in the parlor. I had read but a moment when the heart sprang into a violent palpitation. I went to bed without notice to anyone, and it went off in a few minutes. Did not rest well last night, had pain in my ear, &c.

April 7: Monday.

While sitting by the bed-side at 3 P.[M] at Wm. Staley's, I was attacked with palpitation very severely. It produced great giddiness but for a minute or so. I then went to B[arren] Hill, then back to Wm. Freas', then home. At 8, took ¼ gr. Morph., at 9, two teaspoonful of alcohol in milk. It was still beating rapidly at 11 ½. I then got up and walked about a little, laid down & at 12 it went off. After going off, I could not sleep till 5 o'clock A.M. It was the Morph. [that] kept me awake.

Joseph's "leave" is out. He is "awaiting orders."

April 18: Friday.

Joseph left here for "Louisville, Ky., the Head-quarters of the Department of the South," on Monday, Easter Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at one o'clock, by [the] one o'clock train from Norristown. I took him to Conshohocken. When we shall see him again, if ever, I cannot tell. He was an excellent help to me during this long and severe winter, the severest winter that I have perhaps ever experienced, and yet not the most unpleasant to hand. The roads were hard & good, no deep mud. Indeed there was no dragging through the mud as in former years, not even in March. Together we did a great deal of lucrative business. My Collections for 1872 came to within a few dollars of \$4,000.

Rec'd. a letter from Dr. Wilmer Worthington of West Chester, Chester Co., today, in response to one from me condoling with him in his sickness and wishing him a

restoration to health & happiness. I paste his letter here. Dr. Worthington is a little older than I am and at present "Secretary of the Board of Public Charities" of the State.

May 4: Sunday.

Bertha & her children (3 children) have been here for nearly three weeks. She is getting well and strong and the children are as nice as they can be. I have been very well for some time, have done a good deal of practice, and had greatly interesting cases.

It is now nearly a week (just a week today) since Joseph left Louisville for Mobile, the place to which he has been assigned. We have had two letters from him since his arrival there. He seems pleased with the place. But I cannot say that I like his being sent to a Southern post at this time of year to remain all summer. But we must trust for the best. We are perhaps as safe in one place as another. The grass is most green & beautiful in the lawn this evening. The sun shines brightly. The air is still & calm and this hush of the Sabbath evening prevails..

It is now nearly 4 weeks since I had an attack of palpitation, and I feel thankful for it. I have taken one cup of coffee for breakfast, with a few potatoes and a bowl of milk well filled with toast bread, for dinner tea, for supper coffee & milk as at breakfast. Never felt better. Practiced the forenoon [and at] two P.M. have arranged my pamphlets.

May 8: Thursday.

I was never better in life than during the last month. On Monday 5<sup>th</sup>, I rode for the first time this spring without my over-coat and, strange to say, without gloves too. It became raw & cold, and my hands were quite cold during the afternoon. Next day I had stiffness in my back, lumbago, could not walk entirely straight, but practiced and attended Medical Society & felt well, save the stiffness.

This morning rose very well and immediately after eating a very full breakfast, of one cup of coffee, some shoulder fried, and a large bowl of bread & milk, while just going to put on my coat, I was attacked, but so slightly that I was not sure for a moment that it was really so. But it was now quite decided, and I laid myself on the sofa. This was 7 A.M., took nothing until 11 A.M., then [took]  $\frac{1}{4}$  gr. Morph., at 2 five drops fluid ext.veratria, in an hour 4 drops more, at 5 P.[M.] [a] tablespoon of whiskey (very pure, brought by Jos.). At 6, while walking about, [it] went off. Felt very [warm] when it went off. Took supper and then finished an Essay on "Opium in labor & as a preventive of abortion" before  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 10 P.M.

May 12: Monday

Yesterday evening just before supper and after being quite well all day, I was, while talking in the entry with my daughter Susan, struck with palpitation. I at once lay down, but got up in half hour and [ate] a little supper without the children knowing that I had it. Afterwards went to bed. Then I took 7 drops Tinct. Vat. Viride and in an hour 4 more, and then in an hour two teaspoonsful alcohol. After an hour or much more, got quite sick & vomited, after which I took Morph. half a gr. in two doses. This made me comfortable and after midnight, or after 2 A.M. this morning, I fell asleep, slept & waked often till 5 when I found it had gone off. It was on me 10  $\frac{1}{2}$  hours. I think if I get it again, I will take the Morphine alone & wait patiently till it shall go off. It is becoming decidedly alarming. I never know when it will attack.



May 15: Thursday.

I have been practicing a good deal this week and feel pretty well. Susan has had a letter from Joseph, so Tacie, Mother, &c. Greatly pleased with the City.

Dr. Charles Styer who was married on April 30<sup>th</sup> was here on Sunday last. The same afternoon Follen and myself called at Chalkley's to see her. A nice looking girl, Mary Larue, daughter of Moses Larue of Philad. Charley was engaged five years ago to a Miss Hoskins, and after he went out to the West, as an Army Assist. Surgeon, he soon ceased to write to her and finally broke it off. When he came back last fall to Philad. where he expected to attend Lectures, he went to see her, and he put her under the impression that he still loved her as well as ever, but did not desire to marry anyone. Thus got his letters from her and then, when lectures ceased, married Miss Larue. Before the wedding Miss H. went to Miss L. and told her "all about" his conduct. This is the story of Miss H. and is likely correct for she is a very fine girl.

May 18: Sunday.

Today at 2 o'clock I was summoned in haste to see my old friend D. H. Mulvany, Esq., attorney at Law, Norristown, Pa., who is supposed to be dying. My brother is in attendance and this morning had Professor Alfred Stillé of [the] University of Pa. to see him, who pronounced the case hopeless. Mr. M. then desired to see me. I saw him at 3 ½ o'clock. Poor fellow! He seems to be dying indeed. He has pneumonia; his hands and feet are cold & clammy, his pulse rapid, breathing short and quick, but he talks pretty well. Tonight will likely close the scene. His wife & daughters are at Nice in Southern France

Yesterday I was up to see Sister Mary Adamson. She is somewhat better.

May 19: Monday

Daniel H. Mulvany died last night at 9.10'

May 22: Wednesday.

Mr. Mulvany was buried today at 2 P.M. There was a large gathering of Lawyers & other friends. I was up. It seemed sad that none of his immediate family was present. While at the house a dispatch per telegraph was rec'd. from his wife, at Nice, in France, that they would sail at once.

I wrote a notice of him which was printed in the Norristown *Daily Herald*, and which has been copied by Mayor Freas of the "Germantown Telegraph," with a brief preface. It is pasted on the opposite page.

June 5: Thursday.

I was in Philad. today, having convened the Censors at the office of Dr. Wm. Pancoast, to arrange our business for the State Meeting. Met at ½ hour after noon, cont'd. in session till 4. Had no dinner. Got home at 5 ½ and soon as [I] got in the house almost, had a palpitation. Went to bed at once and took toast & coffee. In half hour it went off, for which I was indeed very thankful. I was soon as well as before. It was no doubt caused by weariness. I had visited by request professionally my friend Jesse Williams of Philad., 427 N. 7<sup>th</sup> St. Poor Jesse! He has a great tumor in the

abdomen, which is taking his life. I had then been deeply engaged at the meeting, and having no dinner, had become too much exhausted.

**Editor's note:** At this point in the diary are pasted the obituary of Daniel H. Mulvany and two poems, "A TOTAL WRECK" by Charles E. Meae, and "AN ORDER FOR A PICTURE" by Alice Carey.

June 8: Sunday.

Frannie Bacon & her friend Emma White are here today. Miss White is quite a splendid girl.

I practiced some this morning, then went to Hicksite Meeting, where I met several old friends, Lewis A. Lukens, Alan Wood Senr., and Alan Wood Jr., Wm. Potts, &c. Joel Lair preached three times, just twice too often. Have written some papers this afternoon to be presented to the State Society, and practiced some. Mother is now (9 P.M.) writing to Joseph at Mobile, Alabama. I wish he was not down in the South. I have always dreaded it. H.C.

June 10: Tuesday.

At 3 ¼ P.M., Susan, Bertha & myself started for Norristown in the big carriage, with Mary to bring back the carriage, on our way to Carlisle to the State [Medical Society] meeting.

At 4:21 P.M. we left Bridgeport, Dr. David Schrack having joined us. At 8 ½ P. we arrived at Harrisburg and put up at the Lochcel [Lochiel] House for the night. We had had a delightful trip up, Dr. Schrack entertaining us with pleasant jokes & stories. The day was delightful & the country in its loveliest dress. At Reading I had met my friend Professor Traill Green of Easton on his way to the meeting, and as I wished to counsel with him on the business which took me to the meeting, I rode with him for about 15 miles.

June 11: Wednesday.

Left Harrisburg at 8 A.[M.], reached Carlisle at 9:15 A.M. Many delegates had arrived. At 11 A.M. the meeting commenced at the Court House. Two years ago the Censors of the 1<sup>st</sup> district had decided a difficulty between a Society and one of its members, whom the Society had expelled, by restoring the member to his rights. The Society refused to conform to the decision and kept him from participating in the business of the meeting. As I could not attend the meeting of last year, I sent a paper to be read there, demanding of the Society his restoration. As there were none of the censors present, nor the accused member, Dr. John Atlee of the Lancaster Co. Society, who was very virulent against our action, went into a one-sided history of the case to the Society. Many delegates never before having heard of the difficulty, and had a resolution passed that the Society did right in refusing to comply with the decision of the Censors. To undo this action and compel the Society to restore Dr. Ehler to his rights in the Lancaster County Medical Society was my business before the Society. I had everything prepared for opening the subject at the first favorable moment. Before reaching the Court House, I met Dr. Weidman, one of the Censors, who told me that the Opposition was there in force & ready for action, with both Dr. John Atlee & Dr.

Washington Atlee ready to pounce on me. In a very few minutes after the meeting opened, I was approached by Dr. Stetler of Philad. to get my consent to change the article which says "the decision of the Board of Censors shall be final." He proposed to offer the resolution and if I would not oppose it, it could be passed at once, and then all decisions of the Censors would be open for examination before the Meeting. This was in the interest of the Atlees, and so as to have the discussion set aside, which they supposed I would have up, though they did not know how I would attack. He offered the resolution & I objected, so it had to lay over for a year. In a moment more, I had the floor and presented one of my papers, and now for four hours or more, I maintained incessant fight against the two Atlees and two or three occasional differences. I carried every point even to the annulling everything done against our action, in our absence, at Franklin last year. And so completely had I convinced the Society of the justice of everything I asked for, that it really seemed as though they would grant anything I would ask. It was a complete triumph, and even the opponents saw that they could do no better than gracefully submit, which they did and became good friends with me.

Much good business was afterwards transacted that day & the next. The first day an entertainment was given to the Society at a large Hall, by the Doctors of Cumberland Co. Med. Soc., and the next night a banquet was held at the Bentz House for which we paid \$3.00 per man. At that, after the eating was over and the toasts began, Dr. John Atlee was called on for a speech, and on closing called me. I responded in what Susan & Bertha say was a speech of which they felt especially proud. And thus ended the banquet, with all the contest of the day before forgotten and the utmost good feeling prevailing.

At one o'clock in the morning we got to bed. At 2 o'clock, before I got to sleep, I was taken with palpitation of heart, the first time it ever occurred while lying down. I rose with it, without saying anything to the girls, until day light, when I got up & took a quarter grain of Morpheum & laid down. In a few minutes it ceased. We all lay till about 7 A.M. Got up & breakfasted and found a card from Dr. Wright & wife. Dr. W. was the surgeon of the military post, and Joseph had been with him there for months a few years ago. We called on them at 8 ½ o'clock and had a very pleasant visit. Dr. Ziegler & daughter and Miss Graham, daughter of Judge Graham had also called the day before, and we had called on them in the afternoon of the day before. Had also met them at both parties. Just before we left the hotel (at 10: 30 A.M. of the same day that we visited Dr. Wright), Mrs. Grier, wife of Genl. Grier, also called on us and spent a few minutes with us. Neither she nor Dr. Wright had known till the day we were to leave that we were there. They were all loud in their praise of Joseph. A great many Doctors called to see me after the contest and discussion took place, and many of them spoke very flatteringly of my writings in the journals, as well as my decision in the Lancaster Co. Case and of my defense of the action of the Board of Censors as being in strictest accord with the laws of the Society and with justice. Dr. Anderson & his sister were of our party all the time we were there, and at 9:30 A.M. of the 13<sup>th</sup> (Friday) we all left for home, dined at Harrisburg and at 2 took the Reading Cars for home again. Arrived at Norristown at 6 and brother William sent his man to take us home, where we arrived about sunset, all well and finding all at home well.

June 15: Sunday.

Practiced yesterday & this forenoon. While writing in the office this afternoon at 5 o'clock was taken with palpitation, went to the house, undressed & went to bed, after taking a tablespoonful of strong tincture of black Snake Root. It went off in about half hour, and I feel quite well ever since and have written those three pages & more since supper.

June 22: Sunday.

Mary & her mother are at Priscilla Wistar's in Germantown. Jay & Susan are here and have been since noon. Last 4<sup>th</sup> day, wife & myself were to see sister Mary Adamson. She was able to be about, and was down stairs & in the garden a short time. I have not been out today, but have read a good deal. Just before supper, 5 P.M., while reading, I was struck with a very light palpitation. I at once took a large dose Tinct. Lavendu<sup>clxxv</sup> It went off in about 5 minutes. Read all the evening.

**Editor's note:** Next to a postcard pasted in the diary, Doctor Corson wrote, "Professor Leidy's note on 'Postal-Card,' the first I have rec'd. These Cards have just come into use. We buy those for one cent a piece, and then they require no postage stamp."

June 30: Monday.

The Academy Expedition. Professor Joseph Leidy of Philad., the great scientist and member of [the] Academy of Natural Science in Philad., [will] leave today for the Yellow-Stone region. My nephew Charles Sumner Dolley, son of my niece Sarah R. A. Dolley, M.D. of Rochester, N. York, will go with Dr. Leidy. I have been for some time arranging it with Dr. Leidy. Dr. Leidy made application to Surgeon of [the] Army to let Joseph go with him, but he did not succeed, and so he wrote me a week ago that he would take Charley, if, as I had said, he would bear his own expenses. I at once notified him and his mother. They responded at once and several days ago Charles, who is now just 17, and small at that, arrived in the City. Follen met him at the "Bingham House," corner of 11<sup>th</sup> & Market, and took him to see Dr. Leidy. He then came up with Follen. Next day [he] went to his grandmother's near Phoenixville. Our daughter Mary went up on Friday & yesterday came with him home. As soon as breakfast shall be over, we will go to Philad., where he will join the Dr. Leidy party and leave at noon for Fort Bridger. From the Fort they will "fit out" with mules, soldiers, &c., and start on a three months expedition in the immense wilderness.

July 1: Tuesday.

Yesterday at 8:20 A.M., Mrs. Corson, Charles & myself left Conshohocken for Philad.. Charles & I called on Professor Joseph Leidy, then went to Bingham House & arranged to have his baggage sent over to [the] Depot. Then [we] went to the Continental Hotel where we met Mrs. Corson & we took dinner, or rather breakfast at 10 1/2 . By 12:20 we were all at the Depot, where were Prof. Leidy & wife, Prof. Hitchcock & Dr. Chapman, Miss Smith, daughter of Dr. Smith of Delaware County, with whom I have had acquaintance for some years and who was a very intimate friend of Cousin John Evans. At 12:40 they left, after which we returned to the city & at 2 1/2 was

again in Conshohocken. Mrs. Corson did not come up till [the] 5 ½ train. Charles took it all as calmly as though he were only on a visit to West Philad.

July 7: Monday.

Palpitation [for] 10 minutes while writing in office just after breakfast.

July 8: Tuesday.

Palpitation [for] half hour, while writing in office after breakfast.

July 9: Wednesday.

Taken with palpitation while in the P.O. at Conshohocken at 9 A.M. Went to Moorheads, and stopped at two places in Consho. [Palpitation] lasted two hours.

July 11: Friday.

Read a letter from Sarah Dolley, inviting our children & Helen & Ida to come stay awhile with her in Rochester. [She] also gave extracts from Charley's letter written at Cheyenne. He is astonished & delighted with the Prairie & the Antelopes & Buffalos, and Prairie Dogs.

July 12: Saturday.

I have a good many patients & some very poorly. We have all our hay & wheat in this evening; a little rye [is] out yet.

July 13: Sunday.

Practiced a good deal. Dr. Ann Lukens here in afternoon. Benny Comfort died at 5 P.M. after only 3 days illness, of peritonitis.

July 27: Sunday.

11 A.M. Day before yesterday, I was taken with palpitation of Heart at 4 P.M. at Wm. Freas'. I did not speak of it to them, but visited a couple of patients on the Road & then came home. It passed off about 8 o'clock. Am, except those spells, perfectly well. Have two new families now, this week. Am practicing very much, rise at 5 A.M. and continue [at] it until done.

**Editor's note:** Pasted on the following page in the diary are two letters, one from Mrs. Halberstadt of Pottsville, thanking him for standing up for her husband and the Board of Censors sustaining Dr. Halberstadt; she invited Dr. Corson to visit them in Pottsville. The other letter is from Dr. Ehler of Lancaster, thanking him for fighting for his rights and reversing the unjust expulsion of him by the Lancaster County Medical Society. On the next page is pasted a letter from the editor of the New York Medical Review, E.S. McClellan, M.D., stating that he had examined a monogram written by Dr. Corson and loaned to him by Dr. Stephen Rogers of New York City, on "Infant Feeding." He did this in preparation of an article he is Preparing in which he essentially agrees with Dr. Corson, stating that the position taken by Dr. Corson and Dr. Rogers "is unquestionably correct." Under the pasted letter Dr. Corson noted the following:

"The above letter is not intelligible to the uninitiated. Four years or more ago, I published "Food for Infants," taking the ground that infants should have no water put in their milk, when fed on cow's milk. The Professors were teaching one part milk to two of water. This startled them & they spoke of it in their lectures sneeringly. Dr. Rogers of New York took it up, and hundreds of physicians on reading my paper were convinced of the propriety of my teaching. McClellan, the author of the letter, is the Editor of the "Medical Review" of N. York and has written an article reviewing the paper, issued by the N. York Health Association, entitled "Rules for Mothers," also a paper just issued by the Philad. Obstetrical Society, of the same character. But the point McClellan makes is that the latter Society has adopted & endorsed my views & the views of Dr. Rogers, to give whole milk."

July 30: Wednesday.

6 A.M., 70° "Probabilities" say that it will be hotter today than yesterday, very hot then. I took daughter Mary to Sarah Jones' (my niece) yesterday to spend the day with "Sallie," her daughter. Practiced a great deal, visited 20 patients or twenty families, some of whom were many miles away. Hope to have a light labor today.

August 8: Friday.

Rec'd. about 40 copies of the "Infant Feeding and its relation to Infant Mortality" from McClellan today. The Philad. Doctors have become excited on this subject of Infant Food, and have issued "Rules" to Mothers. I have rec'd. two letters from the chairman of the Obstetrical Committee, thanking me for my pamphlet & commending it. See letter on next page.

**Editor's note:** The letter is from Dr. Goodell, written on stationary of PRESTON RETREAT, 20<sup>th</sup> and Hamilton Streets, Philadelphia.

August 17: Sunday.

Dr. James Tyson & wife, who are boarding at Wm. Livezey's, have spent the evening here and gone home. Mother (wife) & Mary have been on a visit to Tacie today. I have been seeing a number of patients, and writing some. Frannie is in the city with her sister Bertha. Follen has been at home, &c. I had a very interesting evening with Dr. Tyson. He is exceedingly "well posted" in medicine, besides being an eminent Microscopist. He was, years ago, very intimate with Joseph & Edward.

**Editor's note:** On the next page of the diary, Corson pasted a newspaper article, "JUBILEE SINGERS IN ENGLAND. Newman Hall's Account of Their Visit to Gladstone," and wrote these comments in the diary:

"I have pasted here an account of the Jubilee Singers reception in England by the British Premier. In our country they have a difficulty in getting entrance even to a first Class Hotel in any of the Cities. How shameful is our prejudice. But since the Abolition of Slavery, it is gradually dying out."

August 31: Sunday.

Was taken with palpitation of Heart about 8 A.M. Took a pretty big dose of

Compd. Tinct. Lavendu and went to bed. At noon ate some dinner, and the palpation left me about 1 ½ P.M.

After it went off, I practiced a good deal. In the evening Jay Lukens & Susan, James Yocom & Bertha, Mr. Richard Day, Genl. Fritz, Mr. Rogers & wife & Miss Hoskins were here.

September 1: Monday.

This is the Anniversary of the Emancipation of the Slaves in the W. India Islands. It was very enthusiastically commemorated many years ago by our Anti-Slavery people and by the color'd people. But since the great event of the Abolition of Slavery in [the] U. States, it has not been so strictly attended to, nor is it necessary. Before, it was one of the means of awakening the people.

Since dinner, Daughter Frannie spoke to me about an engagement with Richard Day of Philad. I could not see anything to disapprove in the matter. But I do not of course know much about him. She first met him at a Strawberry Festival given by Mrs. Trewendt at her beautiful home in Conshohocken, more than a year ago. The Sunday week following, he came up to our house to see her, and has been coming very steadily every two or three weeks since. He is in the Iron business on Vine St., near the Delaware River, in Philad. His father & mother & two brothers reside in Philad., and are among the respectable people. They are English people.

A matrimonial engagement is a very serious affair. To agree to join fortunes with another for a whole life-time is no light matter. Dear girl, I hope she will realize all the joys and comforts which she has anticipated, or as many as fall to the lot of common mortals.

September 4: Thursday.

I rec'd. from Mr. Day a letter asking our consent to an engagement with Frannie. The letter will be found on [the] next page. He seems a young man of so fine morals & good business & agreeable manners that we cannot feel any objection to him. So we have given our consent in a letter, which I am sorry to say I have mislaid the copy of.

September 12: Friday.

I was busy putting up medicine at 8 ½ A.M. (having been up since 5 ½ & busy at various things) when my heart made a leap from 70 to 160 or thereabouts. It was almost like a blow on my breast & for a moment I was giddy. I laid down a few minutes in the office, then went to the house, & after lying on the lounge for a short time got in the carriage and went to Conshohocken to see some patients. One poor fellow who had been almost suffocating for several days with Asthma, and Dr. Beaver treating him for Congestion of Lungs. I bled him & gave ¼ grain Morph. [He was] greatly relieved at once. And this morning I visited him while the palpitation was on me, and found him well. He came forward smiling and shook hands with me & said, "Dr. I would have died but you come yesterday."

I got home at 11 and went to bed. Ate dinner & took a grain Morph. At two it went off. Practiced afterwards and this evening have made out bills.

September 27: Saturday.

At 8 P.M., while attending Mrs. Goshen in parturition, was taken with palpitation. After an hour, [I] sent for Dr. Ellwood Corson to come. He arrived at midnight, and I came home. It lasted me till 6 A.M. on Sunday. During all this time I took only one quarter of a grain of Morpheum. Never felt less giddy, nor more comfortable while it was on me, which I attribute to not dosing myself with medicine.

October 1: Wednesday.

Beautiful morning. It is now nearly two weeks since the failure of Jay Cooke & Co. was announced. This Banking House in Philad., The First National Bank in Washington & the Jay Cooke & Co. House in New York all closed in one day. The news was startling, but the papers all tried to make light of it next day and predicted that everything would be right. But the depositors in Banks & Trusts known to be fellowshipping with Jay Cooke & Co. were run upon and several had to close their doors. Even in Norristown, the House of J. Morton Albertson was compelled to close for a brief time. Next day, the 3<sup>rd</sup> after Cooke's failure, the House of E. J. Clarke & Co. went by the board. In a few days, the House of Henry Clews & Co., N.Y., and in a week nearly all Banks all over the Country refused to give Green Backs for a check of more than one hundred dollars. They would certify the check of a depositor and he could take that and deposit in another bank or pay a debt with it, if the creditor would take it & deposit it himself in his own bank. And this is the condition we are in today.

This morning all the large operations, the Furnaces & rolling mills & Foundries in Conshohocken reduced the wages of the men 10 per cent. Hitner stopped all ore from coming to his furnaces, so many of our men are thrown out of employment. The papers still continue to prate about the panic being over, all being calm, &c. But every day shows me that we have not touched the bottom of the disaster. Reading Rail Road and Pennsylvania R. R. stocks fell rapidly, the latter about from 54 to 42, but is now at 46. Jay Cooke's failure was owing to his attempting to build the Northern Pacific Rail Road. He was not able to sell Bonds fast enough, and of course had to advance money, which he did, it appears, to the amount of Eight Millions of Dollars.

October 4: Saturday.

Saml. Fulton & Co. of Conshohocken (Furnace & Foundry) reported today as having gone to protest. This has been a pretty proud "Firm," but for several months there were many of their notes on the sheets begging buyers.

About one week ago, about Sep. 27<sup>th</sup>, "Benjamin Bullock Sons" went up. And fears were felt that George Bullock of Conshohocken & Balligomingo Mills might suffer, as he was a silent partner in the firm.

October 5: Sunday.

I paste here the letter of Professor Alfred Stillé, Professor of the Practice of Medicine in the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Stillé graduated at about the time I did. He is a fine scholar, an author of much distinction, a graceful & interesting lecturer.

Although I receive many hundreds in a year, I paste but few in here, though I preserve them all in bundles. It is a great pleasure to receive pleasant letters, as it is to write to pleasant people.



October 7: Tuesday.

Have been practicing busily for several days. Have several very sick patients. One of them, Charles Shepherd, is dying this evening, an old diabetic man, and two weeks since operated on for cataract.

**Editors' note:** On the next page is pasted a long article, printed in the *Philadelphia Evening Bulletin*, on which Dr. Corson wrote, "A Sketch of Revolutionary Sufferings. The names of the officers & soldiers who were made prisoners at Fort Washington in N. York, in the Revolutionary War."

One of our neighbors, our tenant David Bicking, sent his daughter Clara, to hire with us. Emma Getman has gone to a trade. I also have a new man, came Sunday evening.

I feel slightly sick since supper, though I have ridden several miles since supper. I ought to write my 5<sup>th</sup> paper for the *Germantown Telegraph* this evening, but I do not feel very well and must therefore put it off. The Yellow Fever is spreading through many of the Southern Cities, Shrevesport, Memphis, Galveston, N. Orleans & other minor cities, also Mobile where Joseph is, but the troops, and he with them, have gone to Mt. Vernon, 20 miles up the country, into the Pine Forrest. He has written from there twice within a week. Whether he will escape or not, time will tell. He seems wholly unconcerned about it. It may be only seeming, for Ada, his betrothed, is greatly concerned about him as we all are, and no one can be more affectionate and fond of home & friends than he is. But we can only trust that a Kind Providence will see to his welfare. Should I live three more hours, I shall enter on my Seventieth Year. Who would have thought I should live so long. What hair breadths escapes I have had!

October 8: Wednesday.

Today I am in my 70th year. My health at present is very good. The palpitation of heart, which occurs now as often as every two or three weeks and generally lasts for from 4 to 8 or 10 hours, is my only ailment. I am able and do a great deal of work in my profession. Ride much daily, see a good many patients, and read & write on Medical subjects. [I] have many correspondents and write a good many letters.

My Brother Alan is in his 86<sup>th</sup> year and still pretty erect, though he has a bronchial affection, which causes a secretion in the wind-pipe, a little unpleasant to him. His wife has been dead several years.

October 25: Saturday.

6 A.M. I am still practicing much, was out with an obstetric case & a case of colic last evening, the whole time till 11 o'clock. I have had no palpitation since the 27<sup>th</sup> of last month, 4 weeks yesterday. I have been pretty careful, have mostly laid down for an hour after dinner.

The weather has been just perfectly delightful. We yesterday finished picking apples. We have sold 13 Bushels at \$1.00 per bushel; have made 2 Barrels of cider. Many have been washed & given to the hogs, and we have put up about 75 Bus., I think. We have also had a great many pears, Cantalo[u]pes, Sweet Corn, Lima Beans, the variety of Garden vegetables. Have an abundance of Cabbage & Celery, & Turnips,

2300 Bus. Corn, nearly 100 Bus. Wheat, 77 Bus. Oats, 20 Bus. Rye, a Barn full of hay, plenty of good straw, wheat, rye, oats, a poor crop of potatoes, for all of which I am very thankful.

The Yellow Fever has nearly depopulated Shrevesport in Texas and Memphis in Tennessee during the last six weeks. It is now also in various towns from Memphis to the Gulf of Mexico, Mobile, Montgomery & other places in Alabama. Our son Joseph, Assist. Surgeon in the Army & stationed at Mobile, is now at Mt. Vernon about 25 miles from Mobile, where they went to be away from the Fever at Mobile. They have forbidden intercourse with the Cities of Montgomery and other infected places, and thus [are] isolated in this fort situated in the midst of a pine woods. Away from human habitations they hope to preserve the soldiers and themselves from the plague. I hope they may succeed.

I expected my old and well beloved friend Wm. H. Johnson here today, also Dr. Richard C. Foulke's wife Louisa, with her young son. Both visitors came. I got palpitation while at A. W. Corson's. Wm. H. Johnson & myself had been there talking with him about half hour, when it struck me. I came home at once and in a minute or two, after lying down in bed, it went off. Afterwards I was up all the evening till 10 o'clock

November 6: Thursday.

The Yellow Fever, at this writing Nov. 6, 1873, has just desolated Shrevesport and Memphis. [Those] who did not fly from the doomed cities were nearly all destroyed. Our son Joseph, who was surgeon of the Army at the Barracks at Mobile, was directed by the General of the Department to inform the Colonel whenever in his opinion there was Yellow Fever in Mobile, and then the Colonel was to order the Troops, at once, to Mount Vernon twenty miles up the country, in a pine woods, to a fort, fitted up for the purpose. They have now been there for several weeks. In this time, Joseph had to return to Mobile for some Records. But he was in the Town only a few hours, & I hope he will not have to suffer for it.

November 12: Wednesday.

While at a home in Roxborough, I was attacked by palpitation just before 5 P.M. Rode home & went to bed, got up and ate supper at 7. Took no medicine till 3 A.M. on [the] 13<sup>th</sup>, then took ½ grain Sulph. Moph. At 4 ¼ it went off.

November 13: Saturday.

Rec'd. a letter from Dr. Curtis Smith, Corresponding Secretary of the "Meigs and Mason Academy of Medicine" of Middleport, Ohio, informing me of my election as Corresponding Member of the Academy. I returned my thanks for the honor conferred. The Society is located in Middleport, Ohio.

The "times are bad, hundreds of manufacturers of various kinds shut down for want of orders." 30,000 men out of work in Philad. Furnaces & rolling mills all around us "shut down." Since Jay Cooke's failure, a great many of the heaviest firms [are] gone. Even the Spragues of Rhode Island, who have houses in N. York, Boston & Providence, and were the people of all others supposed to be above distrust, are gone. I do not mean to say they have not enough to pay all their debts. It is believed they have

several millions, more than sufficient. But they have had to allow their notes to “got to protest.”

November 19: Wednesday.

On Monday morning just after 7 o'clock, while talking with mother & Bertha & Frannie & Mary, all standing near the breakfast table, I was struck by the palpitation of the Heart. It cont'd. with me until 4 o'clock on Tuesday morning, a period of 20 hours. Soon after being attacked I concluded to take Morph., as I thought it had probably shortened the last attack. So I took ½ a gr. at 8 and another quarter at 8 ½. Then [I] took nothing more till four P.M. At 12 went to see W. Freas' wife, but it was just as much as I could get through with. At 4 P.[M.] took 8 drops tinct. Veratria, at 6 took 6 drops, and at 8, 6 drops. [I] felt no effect from either the Morph., or the Veratria. At 3 took an oz. Spt. Lavendu, at 4 ½ it went off. I do not think I will take any remedies next time.

November 20: Thursday.

Very cold, disagreeable day. Practiced a good deal and did some other matters. Follen & Frannie have gone to Lewis Lukens to spend the evening & have tea. Mother, Mary & little Gd. Daughter Frannie Corson are around the table with me. Mother sewing, Mary learning her lessons & Frannie writing with a stump of lead-pencil. I ought to be completing a paper “on Ergot,” but feel lazy and will probably not do it. I do not know what so indisposes me to write during the past six weeks. I have been too busy perhaps all day, not very well either, and above all, perhaps, I am feeling the effects of age.

“The Virginius.” The excitement for more than a week in relation to this vessel & its crew of about 150 men has been intense in every part of the Union. This vessel was in the service of some of the “Cuban Patriots,” Colonel Ryan being the most prominent on the vessel. After landing guns & ammunition on the Cuban Coast, they were making their way to Jamaica when they were overhauled by the Spanish war vessel “Tornado” and in less than a week nearly all on board were shot by the Spaniards (after a sort of trial) as pirates. Every paper is now filled with calls for redress. [The] Government is pressed to demand satisfaction, &c.

As Congress will meet in two weeks, it will be left to it to declare what shall be done. In the meantime, the President & Secretary of State will ascertain the truth of the affair, and the intention of the Spanish Republic in reference to it. The Republic of Spain under Castelar<sup>clxxvi</sup> is so beset with difficulties at home & is so far removed from Cuba that the Spaniards of the latter place have really acted in this matter without orders, and without a wish to consult Spain in the matter. What shall come out of it, we shall see.

December 1: Monday.

New Years Day [sic], while standing with Isaac Roberts in the office, had an attack which went off in a minute. After reading & writing till nearly 10 P.M., while writing, had an attack that lasted two or 3 minutes.

December 2: Tuesday.

Ground covered with a light snow. Do not feel very well today. Have spent today in practicing some and writing an Essay for the "Reporter" on Ergot. Wife has not been well today. Hired man also poorly. Daughter Mary, too, has been some sick from Morph. taken last night to cure [a] toothache

William M. Tweed, one of the great "New York Ring," went to the Penitentiary for 12 years. He was convicted and sentenced last week, but was not sent to Blackwell's Island until last Saturday. He then was rec'd., had his hair & whiskers cut off, and was dressed in the striped dress of the convict, and will be put to hard labor.

The Ring spent of the money of the Treasury of New York more than 14,000,000 Dollars, of which they saved to themselves all, but about 1,800,000 Dollars. Of this remainder, Tweed got more than 3,000,000 for his share of the plunder.

**Editor's note:** The following two pages in the diary have pasted two letters and a note from a Mrs. Walter H. Cooke, thanking Dr. Corson for his pamphlets. One letter was a request of some of his pamphlets on "the feeding of children," and the other from The Pennsylvania Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, informing him of his appointment as "Honorary Vice President for Montgomery County."

December 17: Wednesday.

Henry Livezey's Death.

Henry Livezey, age 27, son of my neighbor & life long friend Thomas Livezey, died at Allmuch [sic], New Jersey, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>. He had been ill but a few days. He was buried on the 9<sup>th</sup> at Plymouth Burying ground. In common with his other friends, I attended his funeral. It was a heavy blow to his parents. He was a lawyer of good promise.

Death of Izrael Franklin Whittall.

My friend above named died at his fine residence on Sandy Hill, between here & Norristown, on the 4<sup>th</sup> of Dec. & was buried at Laurel Hill on the 8<sup>th</sup>. It was a solemn funeral. He was in his 79<sup>th</sup> year. I always liked Mr. Whittall since I first knew him about 20 years ago, an Orthodox Friend. One of his daughters, Mrs. Caroline Lawrence, wife of Benny Lawrence, has been preaching occasionally for years. She is a Friend, but consorts much with others. Sarah Smiley & Hannah Smith, a cousin of Mrs. Sassaman, are having large meetings in various cities, and Mrs. Lawrence is sometimes with them. She is a beautiful speaker, and I predict that now that her father has gone, she will do much more at it.

Death of Robert J. Potts.

I have this day, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>, 1873, attended the funeral of Mr. Potts whom I have known as long as I have known almost any living person, save our own family. He was in his 84<sup>th</sup> year. [He] was two years younger than my brother Alan W. Corson, who is still living and would have been at the funeral, only that he desired to attend the funeral of Mrs. Rachel Roberts, widow of Jesse Roberts, and he thought it too fatiguing to go to both, as they were far apart. I attended them both.

More than 45 years ago, I saw Rachel, married, where today she lay dead. And of all who then witnessed the ceremony, there were to look on today only Samuel

Roberts, Alan W. Corson, Thomas Livezey & myself of the men, and of the women very few.

It seems as if every week swept away some of my friends. I suppose they are getting so old now that they must drop away rapidly. But now then of myself?

I have sent, within one week, a paper to the Germantown *Telegraph* on "Feeding Children," one to "Journal of the Farm," on "Abortion in Cattle," one to "Medical Times" of Philad. on "Medical Etiquettes," [and] one to "Med. & Surg. Reporter" on "Ergot in Labor."

December 20: Saturday.

Had a palpitation just after I rose from breakfast, for about twenty minutes.

December 24: Wednesday.

Last evening at 6:15, Follen left in the Cars at Conshohocken for Mobile, Ala., on a visit to his brother Dr. Joseph Corson, who is assist. Surgeon at the Barracks there. He was to leave next Philad. at 8:20 P.M.

This morning there are at home only Frannie and ourselves. Thermometer 23° this morning.

December 25: Thursday.

At breakfast we have "Mother" & Frannie & Mary & self, Ann & Clara Bicking in the kitchen, Dennie at the barn. Our son Charles Follen Corson is on his way to Mobile to see Joseph. He is at this moment, I suppose, between Cincinnati & Louisville. The morning is very mild, Thermometer 29°. The weather has been very mild & pleasant all the month past.

Evening, 10 o'clock, Jaywood & Susan & Richard Day have all been here to tea, and Richard to dinner. I have had to see several patients, and I attended the funeral of "Johnny Burns," a man, who, when a boy, hired with me when he first came to this country. He was a fine, good boy, and smart. He made considerable money digging ore for me, after as a boy he left me, and finally got to drinking. [He] was run over & had his thigh smashed by a heavy loaded wagon. [He] then got to selling liquor, then to drinking badly, and finally died.

Rec'd. this morning a letter from Dr. Levis of Philad., a brief poem entitled "beautiful snow," written by himself. It was a Christmas present, and such presents are more pleasant to me than costly one's, like those generally given. "Mother" is sitting by me writing to Follen and Joseph.

December 26: Friday.

This day is 40 years since we were married. So Jaywood & Susan Lukens have made a tea party for us. Aunt Priscilla Wistar & all her children & her son-in-law were invited, & all came save Edward. Bertha & Frannie & Mary went down with us and we had a very pleasant time till 10 P.M.

## 1874

January 1: Thursday.

10 o'clock P.M. Jaywood and Susan have just gone away. They were here to tea. "Mother" was with daughter Tacie whose little daughter Mary was born last Tuesday, Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> at 9 A.M. Follen was away at Mobile with Joseph. So there were none here but Frannie, Susan, Mary, Jay & myself, and little Carrie Cresson. While talking with them, I had an attack of palpitation, which caused me to rise and leave the room. I, without saying anything, went up to Follen's bed and lay down, without taking anything. It went off in a few minutes, and [I] was ready to take my place at supper, without anyone knowing it.

January 7: Wednesday.

Follen came home last evening from his visit to Joseph at Mobile, arrived in Philad. in the morning & came up at his usual time, 6 ½ P.M. [He] had a pleasant time.

The weather has been very warm for two weeks. It is like spring. I had a letter this morning from Dr. E. S. McClellan of the "New York Medical Review," asking me to allow him to announce me as a "Regular Contributor." I declined, because he is himself an "Eclectic."

Rec'd. Certificate of Associate Member in the Philad. Obstetrical Society, dated Jan. 5, 1874, today, signed Jas. V. Ingham, Secretary. Doctor William Goodell, whom I have never seen, was the person who proposed me for membership. We had had some correspondence on topics connected with the raising of children, and he was greatly interested (he said) in some of my communication to the "Medial Reporter." I put it here as a part of the affairs of the year. It should have been on the other leaf but it did not suit so well to paste it there. [See note under August 8, 1873].

January 22: Thursday.

On Wednesday [Tuesday], 20<sup>th</sup>, I was taken with palpitation about three miles from home, while on my way to see Dr. Charles Bolton, in Consultation with Doctor Milton Newberry, both living in Flourtown, near Fort Washington. I at once turned & came home. It lasted me from 2 P.M. until 11 ½ P.M. Then next day (yesterday) 21<sup>st</sup>, it occurred again while consulting with Dr. Newberry, in Dr. Bolton's house, at 9 ½ A.M. I said nothing about it there, visited two patients on my way home, then went to bed. At 2 P.M. my wife brot me a bowl of Noodle Soup, which I ate very heartily, and immediately on lying down, the palpitation ceased. Today I have been well & have done a great deal of business.

**Editor's note:** On the opposite page in the diary are pasted two newspaper columns, with Dr. Corson writing above it, "History of Chang & Eng, the Siamese Twins, died January 19<sup>th</sup>, 1874."

January 25: Sunday.

Last evening, just before 10 o'clock, I was attacked by palpitation of Heart. I went at once to bed and took after a half hour a half gr. Morpheum, and in an hour more,

¼ gr., also some time in the night a teaspoonful or two [of] 8 pt. Vera Root, but it kept steadily on.

I slept occasionally through the night, but when I awoke, I always found the action of the heart the same. At 12 o'clock [I] took 8 drops of Norwood's Tinct. Veratria and at two P.M. today took 6 drops more. At 3, [I] became quite sick at stomach & vomited. When I had vomited pretty freely, found myself well and the heart beating 64 in a minute instead of 160, a great change. So I think the Veratria had some effect, perhaps. But what is all this to come to? 42 hours of palpitations in 5 days. I feel stiff & sore this morning as though I had taken cold.

January 31: Saturday.

I was pretty well since the attack last Saturday Evening and did a good deal of practice. Last evening I felt unusually well. Just before going to bed, Follen brought some white grapes on the table, and I eat several of them, two or three dozen I suppose. Went to bed before 10 o'clock. A few minutes before eleven I awoke, found myself lying on my right side, a very unusual thing, and also discovered that I had a palpitation, a pretty severe one too. At 12 o'clock I took 8 drops Tinct. Verat. viride, Norwood's Tinct., then at 3 took 6 drops, at 7 took 6 drops, at eleven A.M. today took 6 drops. It all seemed to have but little effect on me, but I felt wretched enough. At 4 P.M. I got up, dressed myself & came down stairs. Ellwood came a little while. He was very anxious that I should take a mustard emetic. While we were talking about it, the palpitation disappeared. I had taken no medicine since 4 o'clock, but had drunk pretty freely of Ice-Water. It was on me 18 hours. At six o'clock I wrote this. I had a very bad pen [and] wrote it on my lap. It looks so. I am still tremulous.

February 2: Monday.

Did not go out but little yesterday. Have been out practicing considerably today. It began snowing at 10 ½ A.M. and is still at it now 6 P.M. Thermometer at 12° this morning.

I am taking 2 teaspoonsful Tinct. Gentian<sup>clxxvii</sup> after every meal, trying thus to ward off the palpitation.

Sarah R. A. Dolley, M.D., my niece, spent last night with us. She is delivering a course of lectures on Obstetrics in the Women's Medical College in Philad., in place of Mrs Dr. Cleveland, who has gone to one of the West India Islands for her health. The other Professors, at least Dr. Thomas & a Dr. Keller and Dr. White, the latter two only Clinical Physicians, are very jealous of her and have given her much trouble. But she steadily refuses to recognize the latter two, on account of what she deems their immoral characters. She is getting quite a high character among her Students as a fine lecturer.

February 8: Sunday.

9 A.M. Splendid sleighing. I have been very well since last writing. Thought this morning that I would not go out much, would have a quiet day. Just after breakfast, George Keys came to get me to see his wife. Before I got from there, Mr. Throp[p], son-in-law of J. B. Moorhead, came for me to visit his wife, and at the same time Josiah Freas wished me to see his child. So I have been busy all day. Jay & Susan were here today to dinner, and they and Will & Tacie & their children, all to tea.

Have written a great many letters today & yesterday to prominent Farmers & Agricultural Society in order to interest them to move in opposition to actions proposed in Congress, to extend the time that Cattle in transportation Cars might be kep[t] without food or drink from 28 hours to 37 hours.

My Article on "Medial Ethics" was published in the "Times" (Medial) January 24<sup>th</sup>, and Dr. Levis writes me it has been most favorably rec'd. by all save the few who had violated.

An Article on Abortion in Cattle was also published in January, in the Farm Journal and has already called 3 articles.

My paper on Ergot in Obstetrics was also published in the "Reporter" (Medical & Surgical), last month, and was favorably rec'd., also an article on Food for Infants in [the] *Germantown Telegraph*.

February 15: Sunday.

Have just finished a long letter to Jas. V. Ingham, Sec'y. of Obst. Society, also wrote one to Joseph today. Practiced last week a good deal. Attended in her confinement Mrs. Thropp, Daughter of J. B. Moorhead, first child, also another. Have had a very bad cold for a week past, but am now better.

Last Thursday night there was not a single one of our children at home all night. Mary, Frannie & Follen were all in the city. Never have we been here all night without one of them since Joseph was born, I think.

February 22: Sunday.

Last Wednesday evening while reading, at the table, just after supper, the cloth not yet removed, was taken with a fit of sneezing, and it brought on palpitation, which lasted me from 7 ½ P.M. till 7 A.M. on Monday morning. Soon after taking it, I took ½ gr. Morph. and was very comfortable until towards morning, when feeling that it had worn off, I took another quarter, and in about an hour it went off. Have been pretty well since.

Frannie came home from Philad. last Friday, after a visit of four weeks. Richard is here this evening. Follen is on one side of the table and Mary [on] the other. Their mother is not very well and has gone to bed. I had some exciting correspondence last week with two lady Managers of the Women's Medical College in Philad. in relation to a difficulty between two clinical lecturers and my niece. Dr. Dolley refuses to consult with them on account of some moral delinquencies. It has been a very exciting subject at the college for some weeks, Miss Jeanes & Mrs. Richardson, Managers, wrote to me. I may paste their letters here. We will see.

**Editor's note:** At this point in the diary are pasted pictures and write-ups about David Friedrich Strauss and Jules Michelet. The former had published *Life of Jesus* and *The Old Faith and the New* and biographical works. Michelet was the celebrated French historian. The letters mentioned above by Corson are not pasted here, only an additional two notes, one from R. J. Levis, the other from Professor Henry H. Smith. These two notes, Dr. Corson wrote he "put here merely to have their style of writing."



February 27: Friday.

Yesterday, "Mother" (which means wife) was suffering when she awoke from a head-ache and several times coughed up rust-color'd sputa. I bled her largely, after which though she seemed not a white faint and her pulse [was] excellent, she got quite confused in her mind, seemed to have lost all recollection of events of the day before. I felt quite alarmed, and Frannie stopped the visit of some friends who were expected today. But in a few hours she was better and has cont'd. so. This morning she seems pretty comfortable. This evening Dr. Levis is to have a "Wistar Party," to which I am invited, and would like to go, but perhaps will not. I should see many friends there.

March 12: Thursday.

Since last writing, I have been invited to a "Wistar Party" at Dr. Levis', and one at Dr. Hugh Lennex Hodge's and to the Banquet at the New University Building, West Philad. The latter was last Wednesday and I attended. The address was by Dr. Mastin of Alabama. Several of the old Alumni of whom I was the oldest, (having graduated in 1828, while Dr. Ruschenberger, the next oldest, graduated in 1830) were asked to take seats with the speaker, which we did. Ellwood and myself left at 10' of 10 P.M. and took the Cars for home at 9<sup>th</sup> & Green at 10:35, reaching home before midnight. Follen met me at Spring Mill with the carriage. I was re-elected one of the Managers of the Alumni Association. Have been a manager from the origin of the Society.

March 13: Friday.

Today at 3 o'clock I laid down on my back on the lounge in the dining room & in a few minutes was taken with palpitation. In order to avoid its coming, I have been in the habit the past few weeks of taking a brief nap, an hour or so, on the lounge after dinner. Today I could not do it on account of various business matters. I got up and went to see a patient 1 ½ miles away, then came home & laid down. In two hours from its time of attack, it went off, and then I visited some patients and also went down to Susan's for daughter Mary, who had been down to Mrs. Davis to take a Music lesson.

March 14: Saturday.

Follen has gone from Philad. to New Hope to stay until Monday morning with his Aunt Harriet Foulke's family. Frannie has gone to Jay Lukens to stay with Susan all night. (Richard Day also to be there to tea this evening). Our good man who has been with us all winter, has gone away on a Spree. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> girl we sent away for disobedience, so there are at home tonight only self & wife & Mary and our help, Ann White, who has been with us for more than thirty years, one of my tenants doing the work at the barn & boarding himself. What a small family. Have practiced busily all day.

March 16. Monday.

Palpitation, which began 4 ½ P.M. yesterday, went off at 4 ½ A.M. today, just 12 hours. [I] took nothing till 11 P.M., then [took] ¼ gr. Morph., at 12 one qu[arter] grain, and it went off at 4 ½ A.M. I slept none, after I took Morph., the whole night. Think I will try to do without anything next time.

Walking in my stockings today, in my bed-room, I felt as if I had trod on a needle or pin. On looking, I saw a white cotton thread hanging to my stocking at the big toe

joint. Suspecting I had run a needle into my foot, I cut away the stocking and could then see a metallic looking point, and the thread, double thread, coming out of the same hole. I was enabled to seize the needle between my thumb and finger nails, and draw it out. It was almost a whole needle, the mere point being broken off, with the thread still in it. It had passed in, eye foremost, carrying the thread with it. I lay lengthwise to the toe, and was perhaps lying just under the skin, as now after 12 hours it does not hurt me.

March 19: Thursday.

Rec'd. a letter from J. Miller McKim of Orange, N. Jersey today, asking me to prescribe for his Chronic Bronchitis. I add his letter, but have no copy of my answer.

The toe did not get sore from the needle.

March 22: Sunday.

I have been pretty well for several days, and have done a good deal of riding and practice. Have written a great many letters, and rec'd. very many. Follen & Mother are out at "Aunt Martha's." Frannie & Richard are in the parlor, Ann and the man in the kitchen, so I have a quiet time to write & read.

April 5: Sunday.

Palpitation for 10 minutes at 9 ½ P.M., owing to a little hurry & vexation.

April 9: Thursday.

At 9 A.M. taken with palpitation while settling some accounts with John Dettra. At 11 A.M. took ½ grain Sulph. Morph., took dinner at 12 ½. [It] went off at 2 ½ P.M.

Have had letters from Professor Stillé, J. Miller McKim, Dr. Anna Lukens & others this week. Brother Alan W. Corson has been quite ill. I have had many patients to attend.

Miss Bertha Mulvany died at Savannah about two weeks since. She had gone there on account of her ill health, and though apparently not very poorly when she left home, died soon after reaching there. Buried yesterday, Ap. 8<sup>th</sup>.

Death of Samuel Albertson at Colorado Springs. This fine man of 45 two years ago was in perfect health. A year ago he took cold as he thought. The Doctor, my Friend Tyson, advised him to go South. He landed at Savannah, then pressed on to Aitken, but before reaching there, [he] had a severe hemorrhage. Returned & since that [time] spent the summer at his mother's house, near to us, where I saw him professionally. Early last fall he went to Colorado Springs, in hope that the dry cold air would do him good. I did not approve his going, but as selfishness might be imputed to me, I did not oppose it. He died there a week ago and was yesterday buried from his mother's.

April 17: Friday.

Yesterday I had palpitation from 9 ½ A.M. to 9 ½ P.M. Was taken just as I stepped into the carriage at Cresson's store in Conshohocken, but said nothing about it. Called at Jay Lukens and at Taylor's. Came home & sat and laid about on the sofa, or on the bed till 2 P.M., then went to see Mrs. Yerkes & another patient. Took before 2 P.M. ¾ gr. Morph. Did not feel it at all, but it was perhaps a relief to me.

April 19: Sunday.

Returned at 6 P.M. from B. Hill and when very well, I was taken with palpitation. I came rapidly home, went up, undressed, and lay down on the bed. It went off in a few minutes, although I had it not more than 25 minutes.

When I reached home Richard Day and his mother & young brother Frank were there. The mother & Frank & his father expect to start for Europe Saturday week, and they came to see us before leaving, as they do not expect to return until October.

I am practicing a good deal every day. We have a letter from Joseph every week. The Southern Country has suffered greatly during the past two weeks from inundations from the rivers. The Mississippi has broken its bank and covered the country through a distance of 100 miles with its floods. The people have applied to the North for relief to keep them from starving. Thousands have been driven from their homes, their crops & cattle & farm utensils wasted away. Boston, Philad., New York, &c. have responded to the call.

President Grant, a week ago, vetoed the Bill passed by Congress to increase the amount of paper Currency in the U. States. It was a great surprise to the Republican Party now in power. Although it was not purely a measure of that party, but rather South & West against East & North, yet it was regarded as a Republican or Administration measure, and the supporters of the Bill claimed that Grant would stand by them, and so his veto caused intense excitement. The people of Boston, New York, &c. are jubilant. It will greatly increase the confidence in the Government, both at home & abroad. He bases his action on his determination to sanction no more issues of paper irredeemable in gold. The veto & position of Genl. Grant have given confidence to the people that no inflation will be allowed. They can shape their business accordingly.

It seems useless here to take note of the weather, but I may say, it has been very rainy & cold for two weeks or more, & on Thursday last, there was 4 inches of snow, Thermometer at 34 in day time, Thursday morning ice ½ inch thick in the rain-tub.

May 5: Tuesday.

Tuesday noon while at dinner, Charles Sumner Dolley came here and told me that I was invited to dinner with Dr. Leidy, Prof. Joseph Leidy of Philad. Judge Carter of Wyoming was expected there & so Sarah Dolley, M.D., and Sumner & myself were invited to meet him this evening at 6 P.M.

We had a pleasant time at dinner, and as soon as it was over, Dr. Chapman, Judge, Leidy & myself went to the "Academy of Nat. Sciences." After being there about half an hour, I was attacked by palpitation. Judge and I then came out & went into Robert K Corson's, saw Rebecca, came then to 11<sup>th</sup> & Walnut where I took the cars to Mount Vernon St., and from there walked to Charles Bacon's. After being there for an hour, got in the Cars & came to Spring Mill, where I arrived at 11 ½ P.M. There the man was in waiting, and I rode home. Wife being fast asleep, I laid down, and it was not till six next morning that it went off. I said nothing to her till a few minutes before it ceased. This morning feel pretty well.

May 6: Wednesday.

As I took nothing yest. for the palpitation, I am not feeling any effects of

medicine. I really think it is likely that med. does me very little good. Practicing pretty straggly today.

May 13: Wednesday.

Meeting of the State Medical Society at Easton, Northampton County.

This Wednesday morning at 9 o'clock I left home with Frannie to take the Cars at Ambler's Station. Mother had quite an earnest time packing my satchel with shirts, collars, handkerchiefs, &c., though I expected to come home next night after this. As we were somewhat ahead of the time at the Cars, I let Frannie return with the carriage. Soon after she left me, I found she had carried away my Satchel & clothes, but I could not help it, and as the Cars soon came up, I stepped aboard & had a delightful ride to Bethlehem. The day was charming, and though there were a number of Philad. physicians in the rear car, I concluded to ride alone, so as not to be compelled to talk much. At Bethlehem, I met them all, before we took the Cars to Easton. At one P.M. we were at the U. States Hotel and ready for dinner. I met many friends. Brother William came with Dr. Curwen from Harrisburg, where he had gone to meet the "Commission," appointed to build the Warren Insane Asylum. At 3 P.M. the Society organized. After supper we repaired to Pardee Hall and had the President's address.

In the convention till noon. After dinner, John Bacon brought a pair of horses & a carriage to the hotel & took Wm. & myself all round Easton, in all about 11 miles. It is a beautiful town with most pleasant surroundings. At 6.20', we left for home and arrived there at 8:30, William coming with me. His man came for him before bed-time.

I had an interesting discussion on the value of blood-letting in Inflammatory appendix. Prof. Gross, Drs. John & Washington Atlee & several others followed in a frank and generous commendation of my speech, and of their belief that no veratria, aconite,<sup>clxxviii</sup> Digitalis, Bro. Pot. [Potassium Bromide], or chloral [chloral hydrate] were at all comparable to it in cases of Eclampsia, or in Pleurisy, Pneumonia, &c.

May 23: Saturday.

Since the State meeting I have been very well and have done a great deal of business. This evening after hurrying home, I took my seat quickly to write on my report & instantly took palpitation [which] lasted 10 minutes.

W. Hollowell & wife & Sarah Dolley were here to tea. Had a pleasant evening with them.

Have been much engaged practicing, & writing a Report for our County Medical Society, as the person to do it failed to accomplish the purpose. Was taken with palpitation at 5 P.M. [which] lasted till 10 P.M.

June 2: Tuesday.

Dr. Ellwood Corson and myself started this morning at 6 to go to see Miller McKim who was formerly Editor of the Anti-Slavery Standard, and is now Editor of "The Nation." It was a splendid morning, and we reached New York at 20' of 10 A.M. Took the Horse-Cars there 4 miles to Orange, at the north side of which is Llewellyn Park, 640 acres of enclosed land and having [a] large fine entrance with Portico Lodge, &c., but no fences [were] separating the buildings of the various residents. It is a splendid settlement of rich people, an exclusive party occupying the foot-hills of Orange

Mountain, lying between the town of Orange & the Orange Mountain. We reached there at 11 A.M. Soon they had some tea & biscuit, &c. as lunch, and at ½ past one, we had dinner. When about half through it, I was suddenly attacked by palpitation. I went to bed a short time, then got up and at 3 P.M. left for home with it still on me. The carriage took us to the station, one mile, just in time to miss the steam-car, so we had to take to the Street Cars. And in my condition, a ride of 4 miles in that way was not desirable. But I stood it, and we were in Newark 10 minutes before 4 ½ P.M., where we took a parlor-car for home. I obtained one of the sofas, and so was enabled to lie down all the way to Germantown Junction on the Norristown Rail Road. We arrived there at 7 P.M. and had to wait till 8.20' for the Cars. This was pretty hard on me, as I had to sit up, but I did it, and soon got to Spring Mill where I met the man with the large carriage. Follen was with me from the Junction. Got home at 9:25 P.M., got supper, went to bed, and at 11 P.M. it went off. I never traveled far with it on me before. But it showed what I could do.

I found the Mr. McKim family very, very glad to see us. Poor man, he was sitting in the lawn, and was overjoyed to see me. I had a good long talk with him before dinner & some afterwards. His limbs are much swelled, but he has no night sweats, no diarrhea. He has consumption. I examined his lungs, and I know they are badly affected.

June 6: Saturday.

I have been very well since my return from Orange and have practiced a good deal.

June 9: Tuesday

This morning I went to Trenton to see Dr. Thomas J. Corson, who is not well. I had a pleasant day and got back to supper. I fear Thomas (who is [the] son of Dr. Richard D. Corson with whom I studied) is getting Locomotor Ataxia. This was an awful hot day.

June 16: Tuesday.

In less than two weeks after I visited Mr. McKim he died. There have been several brief notices of his death. I have also written one. I shall probably paste some of them here. I wrote Mrs. McKim a letter of Condolence.

June 21: Sunday.

Friday evening after having written a great deal during the afternoon & evening, a paper on the treatment of Conjunctivitis by Laid, for the Masson & Meigs Society in Middleport, Ohio (of which I am a corresponding member), and a review of a paper on "The Significance of Gastric and Abdominal Symptoms in Thoracic Diseases" by Wm. Carson, M.D. of Cincinnati, besides a letter or two. Just as I had written the last words, I had an attack. It was then 9 ½ P.M., and I went to bed without saying a word to any one. It went off in half an hour, and no one knew I had it.

"A Valuable Life," is the heading of a paper I have sent to the Bucks County "Intelligence." It is a sketch of the life and labors of my friend Wm. H. Johnson of Newtown, Bucks County, formerly of Buckingham.

I have practiced this forenoon and have written & read this afternoon.  
Mr. Richard Day was here to dinner & is still here. Little James Cresson, Tacie's son is here sitting by me, greatly delighted to run about, and go with the hired man & boy.

June 23: Tuesday.

I have written for the Norristown Herald & Free Press a brief article on the death of my friend James Miller McKim, which I have just rec'd. I shall paste it on the other side of this leaf. I am getting my hay in now. Weather very dry and good for it.

June 26: Saturday [Friday].

I pasted here this morning my notice of the death, or rather my sketch of the life of my friend James Miller McKim. Oh! what a lovely morning, now at 5 o'clock, how fresh it seems! It is pure enjoyment to be up early. But I will not be sentimental now in my 70<sup>th</sup> year.

**Editor's note:** On the following pages are pasted the published sketch on the life of James Miller McKim, a letter from Mrs. McKim, and from the SCIENCE AND RELIGION section of the *New-York Daily Tribune*, September 5, 1874, the "FULL TEXT OF PROF. TYNDALL'S ADDRESS BEFORE THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION, subtitled A PHILOSOPHICAL HISTORY OF SCIENCE-ECCLESIASTICAL MODES OF THOUGHT INTERFERING WITH PROGRESS-IMAGINARY DISCUSSION BETWEEN LUCRETIUS AND BISHOP BUTLER-TYNDELL'S ESTIMATE OF DARWIN AND SPENCER-THE PRESENT POSITION OF SCIENCE.

July 4: Saturday.

The death of Jesse Williams of Philadelphia, formerly of Plymouth Meeting. When I was a lad at Plymouth Meeting School, Jesse's father & mother (who was an Albertson) lived in the large house at the corner, nearly opposite Jonathan Maulsby's store (now Hall's store) and young Jesse was nearly 10 years younger than I was. I have always known and been intimate with the family since, and some months before his death, he sent for me to come and see him professionally. I have seen him several times as a friend. He has had a lingering illness. [He was] confined to his bed more than a year by a large tumor of the spleen, probably [and] has suffered much. The funeral will be at the Meeting House today a little past 12 o'clock. I want to attend.

July 5: Sunday.

I attended Jesse's funeral yesterday at the Orthodox burying grounds. Both his sisters, Abbey & Phebe preached, as did some man.

Scarlet Fever patients. I have had them now for about three weeks, am treating them by the Cold Water plan, reducing the temperature of the body, trying to keep it as low as 103 at least. I think they are pretty safe when it does not rise above that, but it would be better probably to keep it to 100. Below that, it would not be proper to use it. I use the Thermometer twice daily.

July 6: Monday.

I have had but the slightest attack since I was at Mr. McKim's, 5 weeks ago, until

today and then for only a few minutes.

July 8: Wednesday.

I was up at 4 this morning to see a patient, and another at 6 in haste, then I had much to do until 11 A.M. Then I sat down to read the paper, and just at dinner it came on me. Lasted until 2 ¼ P.M.

July 9: Thursday.

[Palpitation] came on me at dinner. I had to be up several times to see to the men, &c. [It] did not go off till 10 ½ P.M. Took Tinct. Gent. twice. [It] did no good.

July 10: Friday.

After 10 hours of palpitation which ended last night a little before 11 o'clock, I do not feel very brisk this morning. Bertha and her three children are here. Splendid children. The little one, Bertha, is only about one year old, just beginning to talk. Frannie & Thomas have just returned from carrying their clothes down to Jane (our former girl) to wash. Mary, our daughter, has gone to New Hope, and Follen has been a day or two at Atlantic City [and] did not reach home last night.

July 11: Saturday.

Follen got home last night. Had taken a sail with Charles Heber Clarke ("Max Adler"), with whom he had gone to Atlantic City, 6 miles out in the Ocean. Had no noticeable danger in the sail save at the Bar in returning. He left Atlantic City on Friday morning to come to the city, on the same day, then started from the same house, "The Chalfont," a party consisting of a Mr. Sharpless, wife & son & Dgt., Mrs. B-----r, Miss Anna Roberts, daughter of the proprietor, & one other person. They went out four or five miles & when returning were upset on the Bar. All the Sharpless' & Miss Roberts were drowned.

July 12: Sunday.

Mother, Bertha & myself went to Rev. Fortat's at Conshohocken last evening, where we met Jay and Susan, Chas. Lukens & wife, David Paxson and his wife, formerly Jno. Evans' Dgt. and a strange Lady said to be a niece of Bishop Pollen. It was a very rainy evening but we had a pleasant time [and] got home by 10 ½ P.[M.]

July 20: Monday.

Last Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, I took dinner by appointment with P. R. Freas, Esq., Editor of the "Germantown Telegraph," which he originated about 40 years ago and has published ever since. We had a very pleasant time. I left there at 4 ½ P.M. and went to Priscilla Wistar's, where I had left my wife in the morning. We took tea and at 7 P.M. left for home by way of Wissahickon on now the Park Turnpike Road.

Practiced all the forenoon. Posted books during the afternoon. Just as I thought of closing my books at 6 P.M., I was taken with palpitation, and it lasted me till 9 P.M. [It] went off while I was out in "the garden."

July 27: Monday.

Yesterday, Sunday, Bertha and self drove to Charles Corson's, arrived at noon & left at 4 P.M. Had quite a pleasant time. Called on our way home at Albert Crawford's, who is married to Adelaide, Charles daughter. Got home at 6 P.M., stopping on our way at the old place, Yokum [sic] place, for Frannie & Thomas, Bertha's children whom we had left as we went up.

July 29: Wednesday.

Rose early, 5 A.M. At 5 ½ while coming from the Barn, was taken with palpitation, though I had not done the least thing of work. It lasted me till 11 ½. But while it was on me, I went, taking the boy to drive me, to see two patients, a distance coming and going of five or six miles. Sometimes I lay down, sometimes sat up & finally it went off after a little nap. But their frequent repetitions are making me feel afraid whenever I am about to do anything of importance.

August 2: Sunday.

Mary has returned from New Hope. Wm. Cresson and all the children & Tacie came here this afternoon. Helen & Ida also came to tea. Sam Corson and Willie Lukens also came after tea. I have done considerable practice today.

During the last two weeks I have been in attendance at Lewis A. Lukens of Conshohocken, on his daughter Clara, who is married to Charles Heber Clarke, a very popular writer of fun, under the name (nom de plume) "Max Adler." On the morning of August 1<sup>st</sup> at 2 ¼ A.M. she was delivered of a son.

August 7: Friday.

Went to W. Livezey's at 8 A.M. While standing by the bed, [I] was seized with palpitation so severe that my head became pretty giddy, but I was enabled to stand, and it was not observed by others. Came home, laid down an hour, then got up and got Mary to take me to Conshohocken, went there & back in an hour. In an hour after it went off while I was in bed, I had taken some Tinct. Gentian before it came on, after [what] I thought then was a slight threatening, but as it did not avoid to present it, I have concluded to take nothing at all to cure it, and it went off sooner than often before. So I will now try what careful habits will do to prevent it.

Written a letter to Joseph this morning.

August 9: Sunday.

2 P.M. All retired for a nap but myself, save that Richard and Frannie are in the parlor. I have been reading "The Coming Man," by Bidner, in the office, and now prepare to read medicine this afternoon, after I have scribbled here. We have had a glorious rain since yesterday morning. The Beecher & Tilton Scandal goes on. The last & most important witness will be before the "Investigating Committee" on tomorrow evening, Francis D. Moulton, the mutual friend of Beecher & Tilton, and who holds the written testimony. It is a sad business. Moulton has, for years, been trying to reconcile them. Beecher was by all odds the greatest preacher ever in America. He is accused by Tilton, who was his dearly loved friend, with seducing his wife, nearly 4 years ago. For



nearly three weeks, the papers all over the Union have teemed with the testimony of accuser & accused. People are reluctant to believe that Henry Ward Beecher is guilty, and nothing will condemn him if he can explain the innocence of his letters to Tilton. If he cannot, he will go down. A few days will determine the matter.

Have read all the afternoon, felt very calm and comfortable.

August 10: Monday.

Called to Conshohocken last evening at 9 to attend a case of obstetrics. Child born at 11 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>. Beautiful night. Got home before 1 A.M. today. Dan "waiting up" for me.

August 11: Tuesday.

Rec'd. a letter from Joseph [rest of line is not legible because of a taped article.] Therm. 95° in shade there. It is now 4 P.[M.] and Therm. at 85°.

August 14: Friday.

Today's "Press" contains the Statement, the defense I might say, of Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, the greatest preacher of this or any other Country. His sermons have been published in pamphlet form during the last many years, and have been read by hundreds of thousands. Visitors from every where in the States, from Canada, from Europe, men & women of distinction every where, when visiting the United States, have generally sought to hear the great Brooklyn Preacher, and all have admired the practical utterances, the beautiful and apposite illustrations of the subject of discourse. The world has never known his superior. And yet there has been woven around him a web of incidents and circumstances which his honest and unsuspecting nature made of easy accomplishment by a talented, ambitious and corrupt man. For nearly a whole month now, we have had daily revelations of the alleged mis-deeds [sic] of the great preacher & moralist, and now we have his own statement. I am with him. I believe in the nobleness of his nature, in the purity of his life, in the benevolence of his character which would lead him to suffer in his own person, if by so doing others could be relieved of misery, or slander be averted from them. Oh! how I desire that he may be acquitted in the minds of the people of even the suspicion of wrong-doing. Under the circumstances, his defense is a noble one. I will place his defense on the next page.

Mother (wife), Frannie, Mary and Aunt Emily Bacon, my wife's sister, have all gone in the carriage to see daughter Susan Lukens today (this afternoon, I should say), so I am stopping at home, to keep things moving in the house & barn. Ann, our woman who has been with us for about 34 years, says she has churned 23 pounds butter this week. We have only 4.

I have lost my copy of Beecher's statement, but as the whole thing, all the accusations, letters, statements pro & con, will probably be published in book form, it will not matter.

John Tyndall's Address in Belfast before the British Association. This paper has produced a profound sensation. "He sees in matter the promise and potency of every form & quality of life." I will quote a single paragraph:

"Abandoning all disguise, the confessions that I feel bound to make before you is that I prolong the vision backwards across the boundary of the experimental evidences,

and notwithstanding our professed reverence for its Creator, have hitherto covered with opprobrium, the promise and potency of every form and quality of life.”

It is a wonderfully interesting paper of 11 ½ columns of the “Tribune.” His closing sentence is so beautiful that I quote it here:

“Here, however I must quit a theme too great for me to handle, but which will be handled by the loftiest minds when you and I, like streaks of morning cloud, shall have melted into the infinite azure of the past.”

I will pin the whole speech here. [actually it is not pinned here. See editor’s note after the June 26, 1874, entry].

September 4: Friday.

After practicing all the forenoon, I began to read after dinner and cont’d. it steadily until 4 P.M., when I was struck by a palpitation. It was just four weeks since the last. I came in and lay on the sofa a half hour or so, then got up and, with Mary to drive, went to see Jno. Wood Jr. Coming home, [I] stopped to see Genl. Fritz’ nephew, and on leaving there was met by a stranger named Robb who wished me to see his wife at “Lentz’ Farm.” Though I could scarcely walk, I rode down there. The labor was over at 7 ½ P.M., a half hour before which the palpitation had ceased. This is something quite new. I had not, during the whole month, taken a thing to prevent its occurrence, nor any thing today to relieve it.

September 13: Sunday.

Saturday morning at 7 o’clock, just as I had finished breakfast and was laughing and talking with mother (wife) & Frannie & Mary (Follen having already left the table), I was taken with palpitation. I felt the necessity to see some patients and started alone. I was away till 10 ½, then went to bed, rose to dinner, then went to bed till 4 P.M. Then went to see two patients, took supper and at 7 ½ o’clock it left me. I did not afterwards get asleep until one o’clock this morning, and even then slept but little till morning. I feel weak and miserable today, though I have visited several patients.

Tom Foulke came down last evening to collect money for me.

Last Wednesday, “mother” & self & Mary went to Philad. to look at a house that Richard Day and Frannie think of renting. Afterwards we went to Barnum’s Hippodrome, at Broad and Norris Streets. The building holds about 10,000 people and was nearly filled. At night it is generally crowded. The performance consisted mainly of races, on horseback and in chariots, Ladies as well as males. There were also some, almost frightful, gymnastic feats. Came home in the 5 ½ P.M. train fearfully tired.

Brother William started last Tuesday to Warren, Pa. to preside at the laying of the corner stone of the Asylum, being built under the supervision of their Commissioners, of whom he is one, and the chairman of the Board. I am told today that the three commissions and the Governor staid on Tuesday or Wednesday night (I forgot) at Williamsport, to take the train next morning to Warren. When the train arrived the others could not find William so [they] went on. He did not discern that they had gone about half an hour. Then found he could take another train which, though making a circuitous route, would be a charge of cars to take him to Warren in time. He started but did not take heed of the place of changing cars and was carried 10 miles beyond before

he discovered it. To get back & wait until next day for the next train, delayed him so that all the ceremonies of the day were over before he reached Warren.

We have now had 43 days of drought in which time there has been but one moderate rain. But this day has been quite cloudy with appearance of coming rain.

September 15: Tuesday.

No rain yet. Practiced yesterday. Had consultation with Dr. Knipe of Norristown at 3 P.M. in case of diseased heart, [of a] child 10 years [old], his patient. Had another consultation with Dr. Geo. Stiles of Conshohocken, [regarding a] woman in very prostrate condition, [a] recent illness.

Had the grain down yesterday, 3 ½ acres.

September 17: Thursday.

Called at 4 A.M. to attend Mrs. Cress in parturition. [I] did not get over with it till 11 ½ A.M.. Delivered with Forceps at last.

Thos. Foulke has been here since last Saturday. He has always been used to getting shaved by the Barber, and also used to chew tobacco. I sent word to him when he was about to come down that he must break both habits. So yesterday he shaved himself. They are expenses which he has no money to meet. They would certainly reach a dollar per week. He was out riding with me after dinner yesterday. We got home at 3 P.M.. He immediately went upstairs and deliberately went to bed. Suspecting it, I looked after him. What are you doing, said I. Going to take a little nap, he said. I shamed him and he then got up and came to the office to me and helped me a little with the books. He has been brought up from childhood in idleness. Yet he is a bright lively young man, and if he should fall into some business which would suit him, make, no doubt, a useful man. I will not indulge his idle habits.

September 22: Tuesday.

Follen came home yesterday afternoon from the city not feeling well. He seemed greatly worried. I think it is more in his mind than in his body. He rode with me till nearly sun-down when he seemed to be feeling better. Frannie had come home today at noon. She has been in Philad. several days looking at houses to select one to live in when she shall be married. She is worn out with it, and has now given it up until Mr. Day's father & mother shall have come home from a voyage to England. Tom Foulke & daughter Mary have gone & spend the evening at E. H. Corson's, while Follen & his mother have gone down to see Jaywood Lukens & Susan, our daughter. Frannie & self are the only writers around the table this evening.

September 27: Sunday.

Follen went to the Delegate meeting last night at B. Hill. The party collected there had elected the delegate and adjourned before he arrived and a full half hour before the expiration of the time allotted to the business. This may cause the person elected as Delegate to be rejected by the Convention. D. O. Hitner was the man. I will pin here a communication from my nephew Hiram Corson, Professor of Literature in Cornell University on the Subject of the Authorship of Shakespeare's plays. He, Hiram, is now considered one of the greatest of American Scholars.

October 2: Friday.

Yesterday I went to Philad. to the laying of the Corner stone of the Woman's New College. The old one has become too small. The present one is to hold 250 students, and the old one to be wholly used as a hospital. There was a great number of Ladies present, [with] speeches by several Gentlemen & by Prof. Emaline Cleaveland. I met many whom I knew. After a pleasant time there, I went to Bertha's to take tea, staid nearly two hours, then went to the college of Physicians, to a meeting of the Obstetrical Society, where Dr. John S. Parry read an able essay on a fearful puerperal fever [case] which occurred at [the] Alms House in Philad. in last spring. Got home at 11:45 P.[M.] Robert R. Corson & wife are here this morning.

October 5: Monday.

Young Dr. Oscar Leedom took me in his carriage to our County Poor-House. I am one of the "Board of Visitors," and am to meet the other members there this morning to examine the house, and he wishes to see the place. We got there about 10 ½ o'clock and met Mr. Davis & Mr. Henry Fry. Dr. Knipe arrived about noon. We made a pretty thorough exploration of the place, "the hospital," "the Insane Asylum."

October 7: Wednesday.

I made a report of our visit this evening and shall send it to [the] Board of Public Charities tomorrow morning. There are several improvements which we recommend to be made: A physician to reside in the House, a new set of nurses, better arrangements as water closets, close stools, &c. In place of the tin pans used for that purpose, we would have "Earth Closets" in the Asylum and Sick House, or else permanent fixtures such as they have in [the] penitentiary & infirmaries. The yards every where want great improvements. The privy behind the Hospital is in a shocking condition.

October 8: Thursday.

This is my 70<sup>th</sup> birth-day and, at breakfast, Mary gave me a present of some beautiful letter-paper and envelopes. It has been very rainy all day, and I have practiced all the time, until 4 P.M., when I started for Norristown to see Dr. Knipe in relation to our report for the "Board of Public Charities." [It was] dark when I returned. Follen brought home for me a book, entitled "Salem," a birth-day present he says. It is a history, accurate too, of the New England Witchcraft, in the form of a Romance.

I never expected to reach the age of seventy, and yet here I am and, save that I have an occasional palpitation, I am in good health, [with] excellent appetite, sound sleep, free from aches & pains, but a little dull of hearing.

October 10: Sunday [Saturday].

Richard Day came at 10 o'clock, Thos. Foulke in the forenoon some time. I spent the day in alternate reading & visits to patients. Tomorrow I expect to go to Philad. to see Florence Corson at 9 A.M., to meet Judge Moore at 10 A.M. at Follin's office, to meet the Faculty & Trustees of the University at their new Medical University at their dedication of the Medical Department at 12 noon (special invitation from Prof. Stillé), and finally to meet the Executive Committee at Dr. Wm. Hunt's office at 4 P.M.

October 14: Wednesday.

It is now 31 days since I had the last palpitation. Today I was hurried about greatly and had some mental disturbance about a judgment I had on a house & lot, which was sold without my knowledge & did not reach my claim. [I] also was hurried to see a patient in Philad., got to the cars in Sp. Mill in haste at 2 ½ P.M. While riding along just below the bridge over the Wissahickon and talking to young Mary Cresson, I was struck with palpitation. It was pretty severe, but I said nothing to her about it. It affected me pretty soon pretty much, darting pains & fullness in my right shoulder & breast. I kept on and just before we reached Columbia Avenue, it went off. I had my hand on the pulse at the time. I immediately began to feel the fullness & pain leave me and in a minute or two was quite well. Saw my patient in consultation & took the 5 ½ cars for home, and now, 9 P.M., feel all right.

October 25: Sunday.

Last week, Monday 19<sup>th</sup>, I attended a case of midwifery, first child, was in the case from 6 P.M. until midnight, when it was born. It was a severe case, & I had to use the forceps, got home at 1 ½ on Tuesday morning, and at 7 was called to another first labor. It was slow & I called several times that day, and at dark went to remain. I laid down about 8 & at 10 got up to see to my patient. I was very tired and as labor seemed to be very slow & not very painful, I went again to bed with my clothes on. After lying a short time, I was taken with palpitation. I did not know what to do, but thought I must send the husband up to Norristown for Ellwood to come & take charge. I was [loathed] to do so, and so deferred it, and in about 20 minutes it went off. I laid still awhile, then was called to my case. At 2 A.M., I delivered her with the Forceps, a fine large child.

Yesterday, Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>, I had a patient to see Dr. Stillé in West Philad.. After that, at 11 A.M., I went to see the exhibition at Franklin Institute, where I remained examining the curiosities in machinery & in products for three hours. As it was not crowded and I was alone, I had a good opportunity to see everything. I got home at 4 o'clock.

October 27: Tuesday.

I had been busy all day visiting patients, when, while standing talking with a nurse in Mrs. Vaughan's room, I was struck suddenly by a palpitation, and though it was quite a severe shock, I said nothing about it, but soon finished up my work & came home and went to bed. Mother (wife) was not at home. At 10 P.M., I found the severe neuralgia occurring in my face. I had had it a week before, took ½ gr. Morph., which settled that. Slept pretty well by spells, rose in the morning at 6, came down & sat by the stove and in a few minutes it went off.

October 31: Saturday.

We have had a spell of remarkably dry warm weather, and "our folks" have been as busy as tinkers preparing for the wedding, in those ways known only to good home-keepers. We expect that Joseph, if fortunate, reached Fort Bridger from Mobile yesterday. He is to be married tomorrow, I understand, but tomorrow is Sunday, and people rarely now get married on Sunday. I must ask about that when "the folks" get up. They have not yet risen (6 ½ A.M.).

We have taken in a splendid crop of corn this year, 250 Bushels at least, off of 3 ½ acres. We would have had more, but fifty geese and nearly as many ducks and a drove of turkeys & innumerable chuckers [chukars] preyed on it.

We had company last evening, Richard Day, Jaywood Lukens & Susan, & Charley Lukens & wife.

November 1: Sunday.

Today at 9 A.M., I started in Follen's light carriage and my Gray horse, taking Follen with me to show him the old homes of his relatives in Bucks County, where I used to visit with my Father when quite a little boy. At 11 o'clock I was pointing out to him the home of Uncle Richard Corson, of Aunt Jane Bennet[t], wife of Isaac Bennett, of Sally Bennett, wife of Mathias Bennett. We were then at the corner of the road near to Uncle Mathias Bennett, and I told him (Follen) of an incident of many years ago, which occurred there and in which "Uncle George," my brother, was chief actor. He was on a visit to this region and on Saturday afternoon (near to election time, when Genl. Jackson was a candidate for the Presidency), a great party assembled and raised a Hickory pole close to the corner. George was to stay that night at Derrick Crewson's close by the corner. After the pole was raised, they, the Crewson party, came back home bringing the shovels & spades with them, and after putting them away, went to supper & finally to bed, George being put into a down-stairs, a thing not uncommon in those days. It was a fine moonlight night in the early part of September and after all had gotten asleep, George got up, took the shovel and dug the dirt out from the hole and let the pole which was planted very shallow fall down, which it readily did as soon as he removed the props. He got safely back to bed and next morning was greatly amused to see the consternation and hear the suspicions on persons of the opposite party, supposed to be the authors of the outrage.

We went on to Addisville, and while our dinner was preparing, visited the old graveyard where the first Corson's of the Country, together with several of the families of the Hugenots [Huguenots] who had come with them from Staten Island (to which place they had fled from France had come), were buried. It is half way between the "White Bear" & "Black Bear" Taverns, only a couple of hundred yards from either. After dinner, we rode down to Churchville, two miles, to the "big church." Its history is this: When the Hugenots [sic] settled in North & Southampton, the first small churches were built, one near the "White-Bear" at Addisville and the other at or near the Buck Tavern, four miles away, two miles below Churchville. They continued to worship in those two small churches for a great many years. Until [and] when they concluded to build one good size church and take down the old ones, both congregations [were] thus being merged in[to] one.

The church people were just going away as we arrived. There were a great many in attendance as it was "Communion-day." There were many fine carriages and well dressed people. We passed directly to the grave-yard where we found, as in the yard above, the names of Corson, Kreusen, Miles, Bennett, &c.,&c. Soon the Sexton & wife came along carrying home the "Communion Service." From them we learned many facts in relation to the church and its old members, and especially one fact which I was glad to hear, viz., that the old "Larzelere Church," of which my Father used to speak when I was only a small boy, was the one, now torn away, two miles below, near "the

Buck.” There is a grave-yard there and doubtless some of the ancestors lie there. But as we had not time to visit today, and as it would make too heavy a day for the horse, we took leave of the good sexton & his loquacious wife, who though not related to us, was yet related to some of the Corsons through marriage. We then went two miles on the homeward road, to Southampton Baptist Meeting, where lie Corsons in abundance, also our Dungan ancestors. There is the tomb of the Rev. Thomas Dungan’s grandson (the Rev. Thomas having come from Rhode Island in 1684 and who was buried at “Cole Spring” in 1684). Of that man, my Father was the Great, Great, Grand-son. So I must be the great, great, great grand-son. There is a record of the matter on his large, flat tomb stone.

After a time spent there, we went down the middle road only a quarter of a mile & called to see Dr. Cornell, son of my first cousin Betsy Corson, Uncle Richard Corson’s daughter. [We] saw his wife, but as he was away, staid a few minutes and passed on a quarter of a mile towards Davisville to the house of Jacob Search, who married Uncle Richard’s daughter (by the last wife) Nancy. They were not at home, but saw the daughter. Then at 25’ of three P.M., we started for home, which we reached 10 minutes before 5 P.M. It was a ride of nearly 40 miles, but I came home fresh & fine. Paid a visit to 2 patients afterwards.

November 2: Monday.

We expect Joseph was married this morning at Fort Bridger, Wyoming Territory, to Miss Ada Carter, daughter of Judge William A. Carter, the Centennial Commissioner of that Territory. They are to leave there immediately after the wedding to come, by rail road, home. We expect them here on next Sunday., and then Frannie is to be married on the next Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> of November. It takes money rapidly to get “set out” as we used to say when I was young, about \$2000. But I am glad we have it to give. As we need it, we sell “city sixes.” The girls have all done well, I think, and though it has cost me amazingly, it is a comfort to know that we can spare it.

November 4: Wednesday.

Rose early, 5 ½, started out early, cont’d. till 11 A.M. when while prescribing for Mr. Howard Wood’s child, I was taken with palpitation, said nothing about it, but went on to Daughter Susan’s, next house, talked with her a short time and then came home. It was quite a hard attack. Ellwood came down at 3 P.M., on business, until then I had taken nothing of medicine. I then took ½ gr. Morph., which soon made me more comfortable. I laid down until 7 P.M., took some supper, and being well under the influence of the Morpheum, I felt like writing some, so sat up writing until nine o’clock when it went off, and in a few minutes I felt as well as ever.

November 12: Thursday.

Last Sunday at about 11 ½ o’clock Joseph and his wife arrived from Fort Bridger. They had been on the cars since last Tuesday week, Nov. 2., until this morning at 6 o’clock when they left the Cars at West Philad.. They looked weary and travel-worn. Since their arrival, Mother & Frannie and all of us have been greatly engaged, caring for them and preparing for Frannie’s wedding, which is to take place today at one o’clock.

The morning is beautiful, not very cold, clear & dry. I was in [the] city yesterday and brot up 600 largest oysters. 8 chickens were killed today for chicken salad. A cook will be up in an hour or two to prepare the collation.

10 P.M. The wedding is over and the guests all gone, but Bertha Yocum[sic], our daughter. At 12 the guests began to drop in, though Joseph had gone to Spring Mill at 10 to meet his friend & his wife's friend, Mrs. Ann Leidy, wife of Professor Joseph Leidy (the great Scientist of Philad. and Professor of Anatomy in the University of Pa.), and Richard Day, Frannie's intended husband. By one o'clock all were here and at the moment Joseph in full uniform of Assist. Surgeon of the Army, and his wife came down stairs and took their places at the front of the front parlor facing the audience. Richard and Frannie followed in a moment and took their place between them. Richard then repeated the "Friends Ceremony" in a clear fair voice and Frannie followed doing her part well also. Then Samuel Thomas, Esq. of Norristown standing before them said, "By virtue of the Authority vested in me by the Commonwealth of Pa., I pronounce you Richard Day and you Frances S. Corson husband and wife." And after that, Harry Day, brother to Richard, read the Certificate which repeated the Ceremony. Then followed the Signatures of those present, 48 in all I think, besides Tacie Cresson's children. At 2 ¼ P.M., the party partook of dinner composed of Oysters, chicken salad, various kinds of cakes, ice cream, coffee, &c., &c. There were some invited from all my brothers & sisters families, Richard's parents & brothers & an Uncle & wife & some cousins, my bother Alan W. Corson in his 87<sup>th</sup> year & my brother Dr. Wm. Corson in his 62<sup>nd</sup> year, all my wife's sisters, but Hannah, also Jesse Foulke, her brother, were there; all my sons & daughters & their husbands, also Ch's. Lukens & wife, his brother-in-law Charles Heber Clarke, known as the "Max Adler" of the "Evening Bulletin," wife & her sister, Miss Mary Lukens, and a great many more. It seemed to be a pleasant occasion to all present. At 3 ½ Richard & Frannie were taken to Spring Mill station by my nephew Thomas J. C. Foulke, to go to N. York, Boston, Niagara, &c., and by 4 ½ all the guests were gone save daughter Bertha, and daughter Susan Lukens & her husband Jaywood Lukens. The latter two left for home an hour ago, and now we are alone with Bertha and Thomas Foulke.

November 15: Sunday.

Last evening we had an entertainment at William Cressons. Last week before Frannie's wedding, "Susan and Jay" had our family & his together in the evening to meet Jos. & wife, and next Tuesday Prof. Leidy is to have a party for them, on Wednesday evening Dr. Ellwood M. Corson to have one, on Thursday night Charles Lukens to have one. As I write, I hear Howard Wood and his wife (now Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> at 9 P.M.) in the parlor, having come up to call on Joseph & wife. On Saturday they expect to leave us for Mount Vernon, a thousand miles & more from here, and more than 2000 from her home in Fort Bridger, Wyoming Territory.

We got home from Cresson's at 10 ½. Mary and the two hired girls, "Ann & Mary," [were] waiting for us. At 11 all were gone to bed but myself & the girls. They were sitting in the dining room by the stove, having fixed the kitchen fire, some time before, for the night. I had eaten some sweet-bread at Tacie's and having now gotten a heart-burn, I went into the kitchen to get some soda to take. I found much smoke in the kitchen and asked the girls what it meant. They at once came in and took up a piece of Zinc, which had been laid on the matting to protect it from the fire in the grate of the



“cooking range” and lo! There the floor was burnt through, the matting burned for a space of 18 inches in width. We quickly put it out. But what a narrow escape! Had we gone to bed without discovering it, the fire would in a few minutes have emerged from under the large plate of Zinc and then the matting would have blazed like cotton, for it was dry as powder and all the surroundings were dry as possible, there has been no rain for 6 weeks. I tremble to think by what a chance we escaped. I did not go to bed till nearly one o’clock at night.

November 19: Thursday.

We had a letter from Frannie. They had arrived at Albany and intended to start on Monday for the Falls of Niagara.

At 9 o’clock on Tuesday, I was struck by palpitation while writing notices for Medical Meeting. It lasted me till 9 P.M. I took, soon after getting it,  $\frac{1}{4}$  gr. Morph. and  $\frac{1}{4}$  in an hour, then  $\frac{1}{4}$  in another hour. I was very comfortable with it, but suppose it did not shorten the paroxysm.

Yesterday I visited the Alms-House in company with, or met there, Davis, Frey & Dr. Knipe of the Committee of Visitors. I spent the time there, about 5 hours, in a close examination of the Institution. The other three visitors are Democratic politicians and greatly fearful of doing something which will offend the magnates of the party.

Dr. Eisenberg took me up there in his carriage. We happened to meet the Directors and some of their friends, and on such occasions the dinner is a large affair. I got home pretty tired at 6 P.M.

Joseph & Ada, and Follen & Mary went at 6  $\frac{1}{2}$  to Dr. Ellwood Corson’s where there was a little company for Joseph & wife. So Mother (wife) & self are alone this evening.

November 20: Friday.

Practiced some. Joseph & Ada went to Norristown after dinner to make a few calls. This evening they remain at home. They have been at a party almost every night. Frannie is still away. Susan & Bertha and Mrs. Day have been fixing the things in the house. Mother was down one day.

November 21: Saturday.

Evening. I was out practicing this forenoon. Joseph went with the two horse carriage at 11 A.M. to meet Mrs. Professor Leidy and our daughter Susan at Spring Mill. The former is coming up to go down with Ada and to have a little visit with us, and Susan went down this morning to see about fixing something at Frannie’s house.

When they all came up, Susan told us that Frannie got home from her trip last evening, and that she will be up here tomorrow in the 9 A.M. train, that she cannot do any longer without seeing us. At 2 o’clock I took Joseph & wife and Mrs. Leidy and Susan to Conshohocken, and at 2:40 P.M., Joseph, Ada and Mrs. Leidy bade me good-bye & stepped aboard the cars and whirled away. Whether I shall ever see them again no one knows.

We have had a pleasant time with them here, and we must hope for the best. Joseph is a good son, and he has, I think, a most excellent wife, daughter of Judge Wm. A. Carter of Wyoming Ty. Mrs. Leidy has been very attentive to them both

Dr. Leidy gave Joseph two copies of his great work on the fossils of the Western Territories, one for himself & one for me. The first third of the book is occupied by a description of the Fossils sent by Joseph & his brother-in-law Dr. Van A. Carter, after whom some of the species are named.

The house seems lonely since they left. They will spend the evening at Bertha's and at 11:55 will leave West Philad. for Mount Vernon, Alabama, a long unbroken ride, if no accident occurs.

December 1: Tuesday.

At 3 ½ P.M., while standing in my brother William's office talking to one who came for him, I was taken with palpitation. I went to Vancourt's to see his wife & dght. and from thence came home.

December 2: Wednesday.

9 P.M. Last night, or rather at 3 this morning, the palpitation left me. I practiced rapidly till 11 ½ A.M. At 11 ¾, P. R. Freas, Editor of the Germantown Telegraph, came by appointment to dine with us. We had a very pleasant time till 3 P.M., when he left for home. He was a school-mate with me, and we have always been friends. He is younger than I am, and very gouty and crippling, but a man of much ability as an Editor.

December 5: Saturday.

Yesterday at 2 P.M., I went to the County prison to meet the Committee of Visitors and to inspect the Institution. As chairman of the Committee, I led off and made a careful examination of the Cess-pool arrangement, which I found horribly defective, also examined the prisoners as related to their food, its quality, sufficiency and kind. There are 37 available cells and 90 prisoners. In some cells there are three, in some less than two, I think. Our Report of nearly seven pages of closely written fools-cap, which I finished last night, of the condition of the Alms-House, I had the Committee to sign.

December 12: Saturday.

Follen brought me quite a large number of documents from the city physicians engaged in trying to get another appropriation of \$100,000 for the completion of the new Hospital of the University in West Philad. They urge me strongly to aid them as I am the oldest Alumnus in the Executive Committee of the Alumni Society, and as I have so extensive acquaintance with the active physicians of the State, those who have been delegates to the State Medical Society.

December 14: Sunday [Monday].

Have at special request of Dr. James Tyson been writing to my friend Dr. E. A. Wood of Pittsburg [sic], now Senator from that City, in relation to the wished for appropriation to the University Hospital. Have also written to my old friend Wm. H. Johnson. Have also been arranging for writing to various others.

December 25: Friday.

Christmas day. Beautiful day. Tacie & husband and four children, Carrie, Jamie, Nannie [Ann] & Mary, were here to dinner. At 3 P.M., while busily engaged in writing,

I was taken with palpitation. I went to bed until dark, when I got up. Just then brother William came, and "Jay & Susan." So I sat up to tea and after that staid up till they went away at 9 o'clock. To be enabled to stay up, I took half a grain of Morpheum. Under the soothing influence of this, I did pretty well. I went to bed and the palpitation did not leave me until Saturday morning at 4 o'clock. So I had it 13 hours.

December 28: Monday.

Have been pretty well since the palpitation went off. Yesterday Bertha and her two children, Frannie and Thomas, were here. James, her husband, & Jaywood Lukens & Susan also came in the evening.

I read Pickwick Papers, 160 pages, in afternoon & evening. It is pleasant to read it now as it was, at first, years ago. "The times" are hard now. Many people out of work in the towns. My hired man left me two weeks ago, returned in a few days, and though I had hired another man at \$8 per mo, when I had been giving him \$12, he now insists on staying with me for nothing. So I have two men.

The Report of the Board of Visitors to the Alms-House, drawn up by me, has just been published in the Herald and Free Press in Norristown. I will paste it in here.

## 1875

January 20: Wednesday.

Evening. I have since last writing, practiced daily. Today I have attended the Medical Society meeting in Norristown, quite a large meeting. Three weeks since, William & myself attended by special invitation a meeting of Gentlemen to inspect the new University Hospital. There were several of the members of the legislature from Philad. & Montgomery Counties invited. The object was to have them see it and hear some speeches made by Judge Sharswood, Morton McMichael, Mayor Stokely [Stokley], ex-mayor, Dr. Pepper & others, in advocacy of a bequest from the Legislature of 125,000 Dollars towards its completion. We had a good time & an excellent collation.

January 23: Saturday.

Saturday night, 10 o'clock. Just at dark, Dr. E. A. Wood, the Senator elect from Pittsburg [sic], came in upon us. He came from Harrisburg almost on purpose to see me & consult me about the law we are endeavoring to get to suppress incompetent, irregular physicians. We had a pleasant evening.

January 24: Sunday.

Evening. It has been a cold snowy day. After dinner Follen, Dr. Wood & self went in the large two horse carriage to Norristown to see William. Got home to supper.

January 25: Monday.

Dr. Wood left this morning with Follen for Philad. on his way to Harrisburg. We had a very pleasant time with him. This is his first entrance into political life. He will yet become a leading man. He seems greatly attached to me. It is an acquaintance gotten up in debate in the State Medical Society meetings during the past 4 years.

During the past week, Mary has been in the City with Frannie & Bertha, and we have had a family only ourselves & Follen, 2 “girls” in the kitchen and one man. The family has not been so small for 30 years.

Frannie was up on a visit part of one day. We have had sleighing for more than a week.

January 29: Friday.

Since Christmas I have been quite well and entirely free from palpitation, until today just before dinner. Susan & mother & myself were about going to dinner when I was taken. I ate moderately, then went to bed & before three I was well. [I] then went to see a patient with [a] fractured arm.

Ellwood & wife came here just before I went & Ellwood went with me. Then I visited 3 other families & was home before 5 P.M. Just at 5 P.M. I was taken again, an unusual thing to have it so quickly renewed.

January 30: Saturday.

The palpitation which occurred yesterday at five P.M. lasted till 5 this morning. As I had slept none till this morning when it passed off, I did not rise till 8 ½ A.M. Then [I] began practice. While prescribing for the daughter of Hon. John Wood, at his house in Conshohocken, I was again attacked at 11 ¼ A.M., rode home, took some dinner, read an hour, then went to bed (after taking two teaspoonsful Infus[um] Digitalis). At 3 P.M. I awaked to find it gone off. Practiced the remainder of the day.

The Beecher trial has been going on now for two weeks in Brooklyn. We have an accurate report every night in the N.Y. Tribune. It is an awful business. The greatest Preacher in the world, arraigned on such a charge, and such an array of testimony.

February 3: Wednesday.

Rainy, dull day. Practiced in the forenoon. [The] ground [is] a sheet of ice every where, raining, water running rapidly. I fear a flood, the ice is so very thick on the rivers.

The testimony of Tilton in the Beecher case was dreadful yesterday.

February 25: Thursday.

I have been practicing steadily along, all through this cold, dry weather, and very cold and dry it has been. On Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> at 4 P.M., while sitting in a home, I was struck with it, but I said nothing, got up & went home. It cont'd. on me till 4 o'clock next morning. Took in about 2 hours ½ gr. Morph., nothing more, did not sleep at all scarcely the whole night.

February 28: Sunday.

“Aunt Susan” Foulke came here 3<sup>rd</sup> of Feb. & has been here ever since, though she is paying \$9.00 per week in West Philad. I have been busy in practice in day-time, and engaged in evening till bed-time in reading [the] “Beecher Trial.” I want to understand the core well, so take great pains to read it carefully.

March 1: Monday.

Last night while feeling very well at 9 o'clock, after having been reading for two hours, I was suddenly attacked by palpitation, I had it pretty badly during the whole night, and scarcely slept at all. At 10 A.M. today, I sent for Ellwood to come down and attend some patients for me. He was to come soon after dinner. At 2 P.M. I was sent for to attend Mrs. Howard Wood in confinement. As I was expecting Ellwood any minute, I detained the messenger a short time, but as Ellwood did not make his appearance, I got up and went with the man, though I could scarcely sit up. After being there two hours, E. came down and relieved me. At 9 ½ P.M. the paroxysm went off. Mrs. W. was confined at 11 ½ P.M., son, named Alan.

March 2: Tuesday.

Had a pretty comfortable night. Have practiced all day.

March 8: Monday.

Last week was a stormy one. I was in daily practice, and gradually felt better. Indeed, I did a great deal of practice. Yesterday was stormy beyond precedent almost. After dinner, Mother went to Jaywood Lukens to spend the day. This evening Follen has gone for her in the midst of the snow and rain, and Mary & myself, and Ann are here, I reading & writing, Mary busy at something, and Ann sitting composedly in the chair behind the stove. Our other girl is in the City and Dan, our man, is in the office.

10 ½ P.M. Ho! Here comes Follen & mother, the storm still raging, though the temperature is only at 32° There is good 5 inches of snow heavy with hail & rain.

In order to prevent these spells of palpitation I am taking one teaspoonful Infusum Digitalis 3 times a day.

March 12: Friday.

Friday evening Harriet Foulke, widow of Dr. Charles Foulke, came up with Follen to pay us a visit. She has been in Philadelphia for a month or so. I have been attending many patients today. I got a long letter from Joseph today. He and wife have been to Mobile and had a pleasant time. It is only 6 hours ride from their Garrison at Mt. Vernon.

[The] snow [is] melting rapidly, but the fields [are] still covered.

March 13: Saturday.

I have practiced much today, though it was quite rainy.

March 26: Friday.

½ past 9 [P.M.] There is quite a snow on the ground. It has not been away during this year at any time. The ground is deeply frozen. The ice has been gorged in various places on the Susquehanna, Delaware, & Lehigh Rivers, and much damage has already been done, but much greater damage is looked for. The wind is south tonight, and I fear some rain. If so, we may have a flood, the ice being so very thick higher up the rivers, and the snow there very deep also.

"Mother" has gone to bed. Follen has gone to see Mary Lukens, Aunt Harriet Foulke is up at Tacie's, while little Carrie Cresson, her eldest daughter, is here, and she

and Mary (our daughter) have gone to bed. Ann & Mary, our “helps” are in the kitchen sewing. Ann has lived with us about 37 years, I think, any how, ever since Tacie was a baby, and her daughter is now nine years old.

Every evening I am reading the “Beecher Trial.” It has been going on about 11 weeks. In a few days, we expect Mr. Beecher to be on the Witness stand.

March 27: Saturday.

I have just finished a letter of sympathy to General Winfield Scott Hancock, on the loss of his only daughter, who died in N. York and was buried in Norristown Cemetery last week. I sent to him the following letter:

March 27<sup>th</sup>, 1875

Major General Hancock.

Dear General

*It is with deep sorrow that we have heard of your great affliction, the loss of your beloved daughter. I have no words, fitly, to speak of so great a bereavement, though our home has twice been made desolate by Death, and the shadow of the affliction still rests upon it. We deeply regret that we did not learn at what time the internment would take place, so that we could have been present with your other friends to manifest our sympathy with you. Though we knew her not, we fancy we see her, gay, joyous, innocent and loving, daily developing more and more the charms of coming womanhood; daily strengthening the mutual ties, which, “stronger than hooks bound you all to each other and made your home “a Paradise below.” May a kind Providence bless and protect you all now & ever more.*

Truly your friend

Hiram Corson.

April 5: Monday.

Today from a sudden jerk of the carriage dropping into a gutter in Conshohocken, I had an attack of palpitation, which lasted me till a few minutes after I reached home. I have not had one for about 33 days.

April 11: Sunday.

Last evening we had what is called a “Spelling Bee” at our house. About a month since there was one gotten up at the Academy of Music in Philad. for the benefit of the “Centennial,” and since that time, they have become very popular in all the towns & even in thickly populated country places. My niece Ida Corson, being desirous to have a few friends together, and the mother of Mrs. Young with whom she boards (in Ida’s house) having recently died, we invited her to have it in our parlors. So last night, it came off in the form of a Spelling Bee. There were 14 besides our family. It passed off very well indeed.

I have just heard from Follen that Edward Foulke is engaged to be married to a Miss Vanhorn of Bucks. Co.

April 26: Monday.

Evening. Today at 3 P.M. as I came from B. Hill, I was taken with palpitation. I came home, went into the house & laid down on [the] lounge, and it went off in a few minutes. But I felt unusually bad while it was on me, and have felt as tremulous and miserable since as at other times when it had been on me for a dozen hours.

I am practicing a good deal with good patients. Rec'd. a letter from my niece Helen Corson, who is in Paris, France, "studying art." I have already loaned her \$1000, and now she wants to stay another year, and to do that will need more money, which she will expect me to raise for her. I will do it, although it is not well received by the family, my family who seem to regard [it] as giving the money away, when it is no such thing. She gives me her notes, judgment notes for the money, and she has plenty of property to cover it well. The proper thing to consider is whether she is doing the best with the money, and of that we cannot form a very correct judgment. We cannot tell how valuable the instruction, or education may be to her. Poor girl! She is at least striving hard to do something for herself and should be encouraged and aided. Her sister Ida teaches in Philad. at \$55.00 month. I think it is very worthy of commendation that they have both started in to do for themselves, and that when they have property enough to keep them.

April 28: Wednesday.

Today at one P.M., Mary took me to Spring Mill, to take the Cars to Philad. I went from the Ninth & Green Depot, to Eastern Penitentiary. It proved to be very rainy before I reached there, so I concluded to spend most of the afternoon there. I was courteously received by the Warden Edward Townsend, who was formerly of our County, and he said acquainted with brother Alan W. Corson & his son Elias H. Corson. He showed me the various workshops in the prison, gave detailed answers to my questions in relation to the diet and exercise and labors of the Convicts, &c., &c. My main object in the visit was to see the mode of treating them, to learn of the amt. of food, & its quality or kind, &c., &c., as I expect to meet the Committee of Visitors to our prison on Saturday. I as chairman have called a meeting for that day. After leaving there, I went to 2219 Spring Garden Street to see my Cousin Amos Lee Corson and spent an hour with him & his family.

Came home by the 6:25 P.M. train.

April 29: Thursday.

Practiced today and attended the funeral of my friend Joseph Davis, who had reached his 93 year.

May 22: Saturday.

I have neglected my writing too long. [It is] about two weeks since I had a palpitation, which lasted about 30 minutes.

All the past two weeks there has been Court at Norristown, and I have been a witness. Last Friday week, Judge Ross came down from the Bench and introduced himself to me, and wanted, or requested me to see if I could not get two somewhat imbecile boys, now in jail, for malicious mischief & petty larceny, into the "Training School for Imbecile Children." I wrote to Dr. Kerlin, the Superintendent, but as I did not get an answer for several days, I went (taking Frannie Day, my daughter, with me, to

Media to see Dr. Kerlin last Thursday. He had been away, but had returned & just finished writing a letter to me as I arrived.

May 29: Saturday.

On Friday 20<sup>th</sup>, I saw Judge Ross, and he will probably send them down, after the Commissioners have given consent to pay the Cost.

The night that I returned from Media, just as we got to the "Falls of Schuylkill Station," I was struck with palpitation. I told no one about it, but affecting to be tired, as I really was, I laid me on the Sofa, and in a few minutes it went off.

Our grand children, Frannie Yocom, Thomas Yocom, and Nannie Cresson were with us all last week, and they had a real fine time. The trees are all in blossom, the grass very green & beautiful, the birds plenty in every tree, and every thing seems to be glad that winter is gone.

June 1: Tuesday.

After attending to 3 calls this morning, being very busy from sunrise till 9 ½ A.M., I found myself at the Bridgeport Depot, opposite Norristown, ready to take the Cars to Phenixville [Phoenixville]. Dr. Knipe went up with me. At Phenix [sic], we took a horse & carriage kindly loaned me by my nephew Charles Adamson, and drove to the Alms-house.

August 13: Friday.

Since last writing, I have been very sick. On Saturday I had a palpitation. I was then pretty well until Monday evening, when my appetite was utterly gone, and I found myself with a diarrhea, accompanied by a fearfully foul stomach manifested by the offensive belching that any man could ever have.

On Tuesday the diarrhea was aggravated [with] much pain, great belching, rather nausea, great weakness, &c., &c. This cont'd. without improvement until Thursday evening. That night & next day I began to feel better and to be able to go out. On Friday morning, I drank Buttermilk, only one tumbler full, but at noon I took three, and also clam soup, and as soon as I had done so, felt that I had taken too much of those (then) delicious things. [I] felt oppressed, tight, and heavy all the afternoon and lay down nearly all the time. But now 6 ½ P.M., [I] feel better and ready for my supper. Daughter Bertha and all her children, Frannie, Thomas and Bertha, have been with us for a week or more, but yesterday left to go to Aunt Yocom's on Sandy-Hill

August 14: Saturday.

Still getting better. Practicing a little.

August 15: Sunday.

Last night at 11 o'clock, while sleeping, I was attacked by palpitation, which cont'd. on me till 2 this morning, 3 hours. It awakened me when it struck me. I did not awaken [my] wife but just quietly bore it. After quite a long time, I suppose I fell asleep, and on awakening found it was over. It was then 2 A.M. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> time I have ever gotten it in bed. The other time was at the Medical Convention, when I had been much excited by debate & speechifying at the Banquet.



August 19: Thursday.

Mother was sent for to come to Frannie, who seemed poorly and supposed herself near to her "Confinement." We both took the 8 P.M. train at Sp. Mill. [We] found her a little complaining. Her Aunt Priscilla Wistar was with her, had just happened [to stop] in on a visit, and kindly staid.

This morning I came up in [the] 8 ½ train, attended to business, and returned to Philad. in the 4 ½ P.[M.] train. At 7 P.M., while talking after supper, palpitation came on. I went up stairs & laid on the bed, & in a minute or so, it went off. I came back in the 8:05 train, Frannie being pretty smart. Ida Corson, Mary's Cousin, came over to stay with her tonight.

August 23: Monday.

Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup>, I went in 7 ½ train to Philad., expecting to go to see a patient, daughter of a friend, at "Red Bank," but as she was better, got no further than Frannie's, whom I found pretty well, then went to see Bertha & family, after that, to Girard Ave. & 16<sup>th</sup> St. to see Mrs. Priscilla Stuckert, widow of a relative of ours through marrying. Brought little Lillie Bacon home with me, after a very good dinner at Frannie's.

On Sunday I practiced somewhat, but spent most of the day in reading and writing. I copied for General W. H. H. Davis of Bucks Co., and who is writing a history of its early Settlement, the history of the Corson & Dungan families.

Wrote to son Joseph, and to wife. Went to bed at 10 P.M. At 10 ½, while lying comfortably and quite awake, I was attacked by palpitation; it cont'd. till 6 in the morning of today. I then dressed & came down, went to the barn, &c. and then, before breakfast, it came on again. I was called up by Mr. Throp [sic] to an obstetric, but had to send him to Dr. Leedom. Then in a few minutes [was] called in haste to Mrs. Dull in convulsions.

I went to Mrs. Dull about 8 A.M. Then came home and went to bed. At 9, I took a Dessert spoonful Infus. leaves Digitalis, another at 10, one at eleven. After the last, [I] felt some nausea, before 12 noon palpitation ceased. On measuring my spoon, I [found that] the three times full just make an oz. That was pretty heavy dosing.

August 24: Tuesday.

Practiced all day. Sent my letter to wife today & one to Joseph. Got papers from W. H. Johnson & Dr. Robinson<sup>clxxxix</sup> today, containing my report, republished in the Spirit of the Times, a Hatboro paper & the Enterprise, a Newtown paper. Wrote to W. H. Johnson.

August 26: Thursday.

Yesterday and today I practiced pretty much; very good patients. I attend none now, or very few, who cannot pay me. Also went to Norristown yesterday to see Wm. He has gotten out and is able to walk very well now.

Gave E. H. Corson a check for \$220, besides a medical bill of \$32, for Coal bill of last two winters & some orders given to some poor fellows last winter for Coal. I owe nobody now, save two or three little bills not sent in.

Ellwood went with me today to excise the tonsils of young Styer, A. M. Styer's son. Mary & Lillie Bacon, & Ida, Follen & Mary Lukens, went fishing this afternoon. Intended. The fishing party got home last evening, Follen having a headache, &c.

I went after dinner and after practicing all the forenoon, to Philad. to see how they were coming on at Frannie's. Found "Mother" well, Frannie pretty well, and little Bertha "cross at night and good in the day-time." Returned in [the] 5 ½ train.

August 29: Sunday.

Splendid weather. Practiced from 9 till 12. On coming home, found my niece Sarah Dolley, M.D., here, also her two nieces, Sarah & Elizabeth Pennypacker, who had come with her. Sarah has just returned from Europe. She landed at Liverpool, went to London. There met Prof. Leidy of Philad. & wife, who had sailed a few days before her. Sarah & her son & two other companions then went to Edinburg [sic], from there back to London, from thence through Germany to Berlin, thence to Vienna, thence to Prague. At the latter place they heard of the failures of the House of Duncan Sherman & Co. of N. York, where they had deposited their money. Fortunately Mrs. Dr. Dolley had gotten the money for a draft, the day before while at Vienna. Her young friend who put off getting his exchanged until the next day when they reached Prague, failed to have his cashed. They rusticated in some of the Swiss Cottages for about a month, came to Paris, &c., &c. and reached home after a pleasant trip of nearly 4 months last Friday. At 2 ½ P.M., she took the train at Spring Mill for Philad. She brought with her from Europe several new surgical & obstetrical instruments, saw many of the great medical museums, and some noted men. She is wonderfully active & ambitious.

August 30: Monday.

Visited a number of patients today, and after dinner took little Lillie Bacon, our niece who is about 12 years old, and who has been staying here with us for more than a week, up to Pennlyn, [Penllyn] her mother's old home, or I had better say, early home. I went to give directions to the Fence maker, &c., also to see about the repairing of the Spring House. We have not rented the old mansion this year, which is a loss of nearly 400 Dollars to us. The yards are grown up with weeds. The house was left dirty, and I see that we can do nothing with it, until we have some repairing & cleaning done.

We got home about six P.M. Mary then went in the Phaeton to bring Mother from Sp. Mill station, but she did not come, so brot Follen instead. At this writing, 9 P.M., Peter Fritz & his friend Porter, Ida Corson and her Cousin Sue Hallowell, Follen, Mary & Sam Corson & Lillie Bacon are having a gay time in the parlors.

Letter from Genl. Sherman. About two weeks since, after reading the "Memoirs of the War" by Genl. Sherman, I felt that I ought to say to him how greatly I appreciated the efforts which he so successfully put forth to allay the Rebellion, and how greatly I was gratified to discover that he held in utter contempt all measures that looked towards any compromise with rebels, that on all occasions he treated them as the enemies of the Republic. Had all our officers been animated by the same spirit, the war would soon have come to an end.

Today I rec'd. an answer to my letter, which I have pasted here. I think he appreciated my letter, which was simply an expression of gratitude for his valuable and heroic efforts to preserve our beloved Government, not only to us, but as well to the

world. It would have been an awful calamity to have failed [and have] this great Republic torn to Atoms by our own people, and “slavery made the Corner Stone of a new Government.” How would the monarchs have enjoyed themselves on the fate of the World’s greatest Republic.

Here we are now, through the efforts of such warriors as Sherman, Hancock, Hartranft and a host of others, not forgetting Grant, standing before the World, greater than any Kingdom or Empire in all the Globe, an example of self-government, which cannot fail to provoke to resistance the oppressed people of foreign powers. I almost tremble when I fancy what our condition would have been had we made any compromise with these rebels. In reading Sherman’s book, I followed him on the map from battlefield to battlefield all the way from Louisville to Chattanooga and from Chattanooga to the Sea, and from the Sea to Virginia, where the Rebels sued for mercy. It was a grand campaign, or series of campaigns, and will ever be so regarded. Take our war all for all, and no greater one was ever enacted. The number of men engaged, the deadly character of the arms employed, the great extent of territory over which it spread. The fearful conflict which took place, the daring of officers and soldiers, never were equaled in any other war. Lincoln was the worthy head of that great Army, led by Grant, Sherman, Thomas Howard, Blair, Hartranft, Hancock & a host of others equally noble.

**Editor’s note:** Here in the diary is pasted a newspaper clipping of a poem, THE GREENWOOD SHRIFT, from the collection of the poetic works of Caroline Bowles Southey, with these comments by Corson: “I pin here this beautiful poem so full of beautiful sentiment, so truthfully illustrative of the heartlessness of many clergymen, and of the deep sympathy of many laymen who make no pretence of piety & duty, but allow their acts to indicate the promptings of their natures, of their natural affections.”

Also pasted at this point are two letters, one from Prof. Gross, the other from General Sherman. Prof. S. D. Gross responds to a letter from Dr. Corson, regarding drafting a “bill” to be introduced in the Pennsylvania legislature to better regulate medicine, particularly the “irregular practitioners.” In his letter Prof. Gross stated, “I approve of your suggestion with all my heart, & will be happy to assist you in your laudable efforts in any way that may be in my power.” He closed with this invitation: “I dine daily at 2 ½, &, if you are in my neighborhood at or near that time, it will afford me pleasure to see you & and share my bread & wine with you. If you prefer water, it shall be at your service. Truly Yours, S. D. Gross” General Sherman’s letter reads as follows:

*Headquarters Army of the United States,  
St. Louis Mo. Aug. 27, 1875  
Hiram Corson, MD.  
Plymouth Meeting  
Montgomery Co., Pa.*

*My Dear Sir.  
Your letter of July 28 was forwarded to me at St.  
Paul, Min. I am just back & find a great many letters  
for attention, and so not remember whether I answered*

*yours or not.*

*The tone of your letter is so friendly & complimentary that even at the risk of having already acknowledged it, I cannot deny myself the pleasure of a further notice.*

*Of course, I was fully aware of the danger of attempting a narrative concerning living men, but time progresses so rapidly that it behooved us to record & publish now our version of Events, lest others equally honest, but with less opportunities should give to History a wrong bias.*

*I may have committed some minor mistakes which I can easily rectify, but I am certain that future publication of the official records will sustain me fully. I of course attempted to weave in the memories such small incidents as would make the volumes attractive as well as Historical, and in this I am assured by competent judges I have been eminently successful. Your letter is but the counterpart of hundreds which I have received from men of study and reflection, and even from Europe I received assurances that my volumes have enabled men to see the Events in the true light, and to reassure them that our war was not only a just & holy one, but was conducted with a vigor and intelligence that reflected Honor on us as a People.*

*Thanking you again for the expressions of friendship and [last word is not legible].*

*I am truly  
Your Friend,  
W. T. Sherman  
General*

September 17: Friday.

I must bring up my affairs.

Last Tuesday Dr. Forrest Merriman of Williamsport, Pa. & his wife brot their child, 7 months old, to Hon. Jno. Wood's (Father of Mrs. Mock). It had been sick with Summer Complaint<sup>clxxx</sup> for three months, and they found it at last so ill, as to want to have it under my care. I had prescribed for Captn. Mock's child away in the S. W. Indian Territory (Mrs. Mock was a sister to Mrs. M.) and saved it from impending death. I have now been in attendance of this child for 3 days. It died today at 3 P.M. I was there about 5 times a day. I have been pretty busy in practice, in good cases. I have also paid a good deal of attention to Frannie, and "mother" (wife) has been there now two days. Her nurse went away yesterday, and so mother will stay a few days.

Our early young friend Hannah Mather, since Hannah B. Lester, is to be buried on Friday next. She is one year younger than my wife. They were friends from infancy until marriage, and since have been so far separated as to seldom meet. But about 3 weeks since, I called to see her brothers and sisters at the old place, and there met Hannah. She had been sick and had, when able to ride, come down to recreate in the old Home. She was pale and thin, dressed very plain, but was sweet looking, as she was

when in her youthful bloom. I was greatly pleased to meet her. We had a very pleasant talk. I am very glad that I had this last pleasant interview with her. If wife would like to ride up on the cars, to the funeral, I will try to go.

October 1: Friday.

Practiced all day. Returning from Conshohocken just before sunset, I was attacked with palpitation, came home & went to bed without any one knowing it. It went off in about 20 minutes after I laid down.

Frannie has been staying with us for nearly two weeks, with her little Bertha. It grows finely. The firm of Middleton & Day (of which Richard is the latter) have just found that their clerk has been robbing them. They have already found \$1,7000 of deficit in his acc[oun]t. He has stolen some of the books too and likely made way with them.

We have had a great deal of fruit this year, plenty of apples, peaches, raspberries, currants, Gooseberries, Pears, Apples, Plums, Quinces, Corn for eating for several months. Good crops of Potatoes, Lima beans, Tomatoes, Cabbage nearly four hundred of the very finest heads, beets, asparagus, potatoes and celery, and some cantalopes [sic].

October 4: Monday.

Jaywood Lukens & Susan were here Sunday evening (yesterday), indeed all the afternoon & evening. I dropped down to Philad. to see Frannie in the afternoon Car yesterday, came back at 5 ½ P.M. In the evening, Mother wrote to Joseph, &c.

October 7: Thursday.

About 10 days ago there was a sale of the Goods of Jay Cooke, at Ogonts, his country residence. They began on the lower floor and went on from room to room & from story to story until they reached the top (4 stories), a whole room at a time sometimes. I went down on the second day in the afternoon. They finished the furniture in the house that day, save the pictures and carpets. There are about 300 fine pictures & engravings. Very costly many of the paintings are. One was said to cost 20,000 Dollars. The immense Halls and numerous entries were full of them. Follen came there by way of the Rail Road. There were thousands of people, continually coming and going. The house and grounds are just magnificent. But Alas! There are hundreds, I might say thousands, of persons who have lost heavily, some of them their all, by him. How much better to live moderately, and contentedly live in accordance with your earnings, or at least not profusely.

October 8: Friday.

It is a splendid morning, and I have just returned from an attendance on a little girl of 18 years, daughter of Seth Schlater. I have been with her from 2 o'clock in the night. At 7 A.M. her child (illegitimate) was born. Poor girl! She has been just kept at work without education and exposed all the time to the poorest kind of company. How long I have practiced my profession! I was engaged in the study of it, 7 (seven) years before the grandmother of this infant was born.

October 10: Sunday.

Wife went to Philad. to see Frannie and stay till tomorrow evening. I took her to Sp. Mill, then visited some sick persons. After dinner had to go see a patient at Conshohocken, and on getting back, I was busy in my cabinet, re-arranging the minerals. At supper, Ida was with us. Just as I finished, a palpitation occurred, so I went to bed without making a remark to any one, and in about an hour it went off. I laid still, awake till midnight, then slept soundly till morning, and now at 7 A.M. feel pretty well.

October 30: Saturday.

It is dark and rainy. I have been closely engaged reading & writing since supper. It is now 10 o'clock. Wife is in Philad. She left home this morning to go to Wilmington to see her sister, Hannah Bacon, wife of Francis Bacon, but as the afternoon proved rainy, I have learned by Follen, that she did not go, but will go tomorrow morning, if clear. Mary has gone to bed. Follen has gone to Howard Wood's to a small company, and the girls ("domestics" & "Mike," the boy) are in the Out-Kitchen, so I am all alone.

The weather has been beautiful this fall. My friend Wm. H. Johnson, now in his 82<sup>nd</sup> year, spent Sunday, Monday & Tuesday, came on Saturday & left Wednesday morning. He is a wonderful old man, a writer on many Journals & Papers, Educational, Reformatory, Mathematical and Agricultural. Temperance & social science receive attention from him. I am to deliver a Lecture before our Medical Society (County) on the tenth of Nov. and as yet I have not even settled on the subject. Got a very interesting letter from Prof. Alfred Stillé today, inviting me to dine with him. He gave me also an account of the death & illness of my friend Dr. Edward Wallace of Philad., formerly of Reading, Pa.

W. H. Johnson & self went to visit P. R. Freas last Tuesday afternoon. Spent an hour very pleasantly with the widely known "Editor of the Germantown Telegraph."

Have had letters from Joseph & Ada, both this week. They are very good about writing every week. Susan, Tacie, Bertha & Frannie all write to their Mother very often, always every week, most of them. So she has enough to do to answer them. "Aunt Harriet" Foulke also writes very often.

I had a palpitation of about half an hour last Wednesday morning, 27<sup>th</sup>. [It] began a few minutes before W. H. Johnson left here, but he did not discern it.

Last week I was sent for to attend Mrs. Doctor Poley of Norristown. I have seen her four times & today find her better. Dr. Poley has been in a private Insane Asylum, for most of the past year, but is now at home.

Thomas Buchanan Read, the great poet, sculptor, painter, was a second cousin to Thomas Read, my brother-in-law, Father of Doctor L. W. Read, Joseph, Sarah, Hannah, & Mary. The poem pasted here is considered one of the most beautiful in the English language, equal in the estimation of some to Gray's *Elegy on a Country Churchyard*. The 8, 9, 10, 11, 12<sup>th</sup> [verses] are equal to any of it.

**Editor's note:** The newspaper clipping is from the "Select Poetry" section and is titled, THE CLOSING SCENE, by T. Buchanan. It is introduced with the remarks, "The following is pronounced by the *Westminster Review* to be unquestionably the finest American poem ever written.

November 12: Friday.

Since last writing 13 days ago, I have had another very short palpitation, and yesterday at 11 A.M., while a[t] Collom Climes, and just while prescribing for him, I was struck again. Rode home, took dinner & was sometime in bed & again up & about till 10 P.[M.] when, as I was sitting up behind the stove talking to Mary, the only one of the family at home, it went off. Day before yesterday, I was at Doylestown. Sam & I went to see Genl. W. W. H. Davis, Dr. McCoy, the Jail, &c., &c. and attended the Institute, Teacher's Institute. Took dinner with Wm. Corson who would not receive any pay from us, because of relationship. He keeps the principal Hotel, and had a great number of Teachers & others there.

November 17: Wednesday.

Monument to Edgar A. Poe. This poor unhappy poet has at last had a monument raised to him today. I pin here the proceedings.

Evening. Wife is knitting, or as it is now called, croqueting [crocheting] a garment to cover shoulders, &c. for her sister Hannah Bacon. Mary is making a very pretty linen-napkin for some one. I have been practicing all day. It is a real blustering, wintry day.

Yesterday in the afternoon, after visiting Dr. Poley's family at 2 P.M., I went to the Prison and with Dr. Knipe and Mr. Fry, my associates, visited every cell and prisoner in the Institution. We found everything in excellent condition. Most of the prisoners seemed satisfied with the food, its quality and quantity, but many of them complained that they did not get enough bread. They get, each one, half a loaf with tea every evening, soup & meat at noon. Now what they want is some bread to eat with their soup at noon. The regulation is to have one pound and a quarter of bread every day. Now one whole loaf is intended to represent 1 ¼ pound, but it does not weigh so much. The Warden explains that by saying that 1 ¼ pound of meal will not weigh 1 ¼ pound when made into bread. I do not think that is true. We weighed the bread and it fell short, but we had no weights to see how much.

Upon going into a cell, every cell, I told the inmate, or inmates, that we were the visitors appointed to visit them, and to see if they needed anything, and to hear whatever complaints they might have, of want of food, or air, or exercise, or of proper attention on part of Keepers, &c., and they must speak up without fear of the Warden, who was present. A few made heavy complaints, of want of more bread, but as a general thing, they were rather a contented set. One thing we particularly noticed, the want of more bread came in every instance from young men from 17 to 22. I doubt not that at this age the appetite is keener & the system needs more food than in those of full growth.

I have before me a heavy job for tomorrow. The Court has appointed a Committee of five persons, John M. Fenton, Dr. H. D. W. Pawling, Mehelm McGlathery, Esq. Snyder & myself to "examine into condition & management of the Alms-House." They are all Democrats and one Republican, Physician & Keepers all Democrats. In addition to all this, my former reports have offended the officers & physician there greatly, and to use a common phrase, "they are down on me." But I must meet them boldly, determined to do my duty, "nous verrons."

November 18: Thursday.

The Committee appointed by the Court [to] visit the Alms-House, John M. Fenton chairman, Dr. H. D. W. Pawling, Esq., Henry Snyder & Dr. Hiram Corson, met there at 11 A.M. Until noon we examined the large, new House, resumed it after dinner, then visited the Hospital where were 21 in the female department, including the nurse, and 18 in the male department, including the nurse. Below in the basement story there were 3 persons, locked in the cells, one a boy named Hicks of 12 years, a man manacled & locked in the cell, who is represented by the Warden as being "very rough, knocking & breaking things." I do not know what he could knock & break in there, if the manacles were off, in as much as there is nothing in it. The 3<sup>rd</sup> was a young tailor from Norristown, in from Mania a potu.<sup>clxxx</sup> What they are put there for, I cannot divine. Surely they are not under treatment here. The boy wishes to go to the House of Refuge, he says. He seemed a smart boy, though his mother is in the Hospital, a helper to the nurse, a good worker, [a] pleasant lively woman but slightly idiotic. The Boy was born in the Alms-House and has resided there all his life-time. But it is only recently that they have locked him up.

In the woman's ward of the Hospital, there are several aged women, who should be separated from the idiots who surround them, and have comfortable quarters assigned them in the large House where there are so many spare beds.

In the Insane Asylum there are a number of idiots and epileptics. The entry of a cold day, when they cannot stay in the yard, is crowded with them, and in cells opening into this entry, any fresh insane who come are to be placed and treated. This is all wrong.

Mr. Fenton and myself were met at the Phenixville [sic] Depot, by the Carriage from the Alms-House & taken swiftly there and in the afternoon at 4 ½ brought back to take the 5:12 train, which in 20 minutes brot me to Bridgeport, where my nephew, Dr. E. M. Corson met me at Wm.'s office and by 6:40 we were at home.

December 3: Friday.

The Court Committee meet[s] again.

At 5 A.M. I was called to a case of obstetrics at Wm. Harner's, ½ mile from home. (I had practiced strongly all the week.) and after the business there was over, at 7 A.M., I got back, took a hasty breakfast, visited Mr. Chester Smith's son on my way to Norristown, and at 9:56, my nephew, Dr. Ellwood Corson & myself, started in the fast train to Phenixville [sic], where my nephew Chas. Adamson had a horse & carriage for us. We drove down to see his mother, my sister Mary, now 83 years old. After an hour with her, we started for the Alms-House which we reached before dinner. After dinner, the Committee proceeded with the investigation of the treatment of the paupers. I read three letters which had been sent to me by a blind man, Lezlie [sic] Stuart, and one sent by him to Dr. Knipe, making most serious charges against the under-steward & nurses. It is not worth-while to tell what passed. I was surrounded by a whole house-full of Democrats, who regarded me as a republican enemy & disturber of democratic peace. I called the poor blind man & his witnesses to testify, but the Committee taunted and insulted them in every way. Still I drew from them and their own witnesses pretty conclusive testimony of the truth of the charges. At 4 ½ P.M. we adjourned to meet this day two weeks (Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>) at noon. It was a scene of great excitement nearly all the time.



I stood alone as the defender of the poor blind man and those on his side, and I was branded as an accomplice of theirs in this effort to injure the character of the Steward as they termed it. How I shall get along next time I cannot foretell. I hope to stand firmly to the work. Three of the charges were 1<sup>st</sup>. Dougherty, the lunatic of whom I have before reported to the public as being abused, was taken from his cell, when both feet & hands were shackled, thrown on the floor, kicked on the side, and his head knocked on the floor. 2<sup>nd</sup>. An old man above 70, was taken from his head in the Hospital, down to the basement, put under the hydrant of cold water & scrubbed with a short corn stalk broom, despite his cries & prayers for relief from the suffering, and in a few days died. 3<sup>rd</sup>. A man by the name of George Stock, who about a month ago (about July) underwent same treatment, being taken to the spring and there washed with half worn brooms, and died shortly after. "His cries were heart-rending." 4<sup>th</sup>. Also the case of John O'Neill who has been shackled for more than two years and who works in the fields with the shackles on and then lies on the bare floor at night.

I am doing quite a great deal of practice now. Have also a heavy correspondence with physicians on several subjects.

December 5: Sunday.

I had been uncommonly well & doing a great deal of labor prior to this morning when just as I finished breakfast, I was attacked by palpitation. After lying down an hour, I went to see a boy who was ill with Diphtheria. Came home & was up and down till 2 P.M. when it went off. About 3, I went to see several patients and felt pretty well.

December 6: Monday.

Have practiced all day. [It] has been quite rainy. Sent a letter to Dr. Thos. Corson, one to his sister, Mrs. Harriet Foulke, including a Christmas present of Ten Dollars (\$10), one to Miss Anna Jackson in reply to some inquires about a farm one of her friends was about to buy. Rec'd. three letters, one from Dr. Mensch, one from Dr. Nebinger, one from a patient.

December 12: Sunday.

I practiced a good deal last week, also wrote 10 letters, and rec'd. eight. I am writing to the Cor[responding Sec. of every County Medical Society in the State, to let him know that I shall bring before the next meeting, the Centennial Meeting in Philad., a resolution to publish in our "Transaction" for that year, a Report prepared on Infanticide, by Dr. Andrew Nebinger of Philad., [which] several years ago, and, because he is a Catholic, [was] rejected and refused admission into the Transactions of that year. After sending those letters, I report to Dr. Nebinger, to whom I have sent, and he dispatches a copy of his report (which was published by Philad. Co. Med. Soc.) to the same address. They of course think it comes from me. I sent six the past week.

Last evening I rec'd. three more letters from the Alms-House informing me of new outrages and wishing us to investigate them.

I wrote a good deal of my report last evening, so as to have it ready, if I cannot sign the Majority Report, which I know I cannot do, if it be drawn up by Dr. Pawling, as has been proposed by old Esq. Snyder. Old Snyder & Dr. Pawling are bent on

whitewashing the officials & blackening me, if possible. How it will come out, I do not know. "Nous verrons."

December 16: Thursday.

Met the Committee at the Alms-House today. Dr. Knipe, my associate on the Board of Visitors, went with me, and in that capacity we examined the Houses again partly, before dinner, also the hospital after dinner. We found a little boy, the one named before, chained by about 6 feet of chain to the floor. He was barefoot and had the naked iron-clasp around his ankle. Poor little fellow, shed tears freely, but did not cry when Drs. Knipe & Schrack were talking with him. He was in the lower cells, in the basement of the hospital, cells which the Steward told me last spring were entirely given up. We must see to have him away from here soon. He was chained there years ago.

After dinner, about 1 ½ P.[M.], our Committee met and we reviewed our examination of the cases of cruel treatment. My associates on the Committee are much changed in their bearing towards me. Their rudeness and scorn & insolent defiance have gone, and a quiet, unobtrusive bearing is exhibited. Nothing is attempted without first consulting me to see how I will view it. They see the pit which they dug for me, yawning before them & themselves slipping into it. I feel that I am "master of the situation." I had the blind man and his amanuensis brought in & directed them to give me the names of witnesses to the outrages. They also presented new charges, and one from a woman in the house, who charged the Steward with having oft-times assailed her in the case, and attempted to have improper doings with her, and on one occasion, she had such difficulty in getting away from him that she lost her skirt, which he tore off of her. We had him before us. He simply denied it, and we then left it drop for the time. We also had Dettera, one of the Directors before us on a charge of drunkenness. He confessed to it, but plead that it was not Director's day, nor even a business day. He is a drunken good-for-nothing whelp, and I did not ask him a question. Several cases I had up, and we finally adjourned to meet in Norristown by Call of the President. They have gotten over their hurry to make report. Indeed they see that it will not be easy for them to do it, and, in doing it, whitewash the officials. I have a tight grip on them.

If they attempt whitewashing and making the report so that I cannot sign it, then I shall be compelled in self justification to detail the whole affair, all the letters with their gross charges. If they go with me, then they must sanction a report not highly favorable to the management. But we must wait & see how it will finally end.

December 22: Wednesday.

Murder in the first degree, 2 cases.

Last week, a young man by name Curly, charged with murdering a Miss Witby in the County, just above brother Charles Corson's, one mile from Trappe, was convicted on circumstantial evidence alone, of murder in the first degree.

Yesterday, Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>, Blazius Pistorius, a German, formerly a Catholic Priest from the Old Country, was convicted of murder in the first degree, for shooting Mr. Traquette 1 mile from Norristown. This was done in the presence of several witnesses. As a "Visitor" to the jail, I had opportunity 3 weeks since to see them both, and to talk to Curly, who did not seem to realize the danger he was in.

Wife was in the City yesterday & today, getting a dress for herself, and some Christmas presents no doubt for others, for she has always been thoughtful in that way, buys very appropriate ones too.

Here we are all writing, Mary, her Mother and myself. Follen has gone to a lecture by Frank Wells at Conshohocken, in behalf of a Public Reading Room. I believe though the lecture is only a reading of one of Dickens' Tales.

I have numerous extracts, or scraps in relation to John Cleves Symmes scattered through my books. The account given by Symmes about the year 1826, or earlier, used to be in a Journal in Norristown Library, I think Silliman's Journal. I heard Symmes lecture at New Hope in 1827. He was then poor & old.

December 25: Saturday.

Up at 6 A.M. I was 71 years old the 8<sup>th</sup> day of last October. Although "the times" have been very hard this year, and are so even now on the Poor, who are out of work, yet there has been an unusual preparation for giving presents and having festivities. Mary has just come down and wished me a "Merry Christmas." Follen and his Mother have not yet shown themselves. Ann & Mary are busy about the stoves. "Mike" & "Victor" are at the barn. Michael Shaw is the boy, and Victor Horn the man. Ann White is the woman who has lived for nearly forty years with us, and before she came to us lived for 13 years with my Father-in-law's family at Pennlyn [sic]. Mary Henderson has hired with us over two years, a good girl too.

Mary had a package on mother's plate. It proved to be a beautiful black shawl from daughter Susan F. Lukens, also a worked Welcome from Ada, Joseph's wife. Mother had presents for Ann & Mary, and Follen gave Victor a most valuable over coat of his, but little worn, & Mary had a pair of good warm gloves for Mike.

December 26: Sunday.

Forty-two years today since we were married.

December 28: Tuesday.

Practiced a great deal today. I was just about stopping at Percy Boyer's gate today when a palpitation struck me. I tied the horse and passed up 3 flights of steps & rang the bell. While waiting for the door to be opened, it went off, but the heart was intermittent in its action all the afternoon & evening.

December 29: Wednesday.

Weather has been very dull, rainy & warm for several days & continues. Have practiced a good deal.

December 30: Thursday.

Weather continues. Practicing, writing letters, &c., &c.

Four days ago, on the 26<sup>th</sup> of December, we had been married Forty-two years. I was past 29 then & am past 71 now. Wife was past 21 and is now past 63. So we may well say, "we are growing old together." I will repeat here one verse of the poem

"Growing Old Together"

"Do you know I am thinking tomorrow

We shall pass on our journey through life,  
One more of the mile-stones that bring us  
Still nearer the goal, good wife?  
The glad anniversary morning  
Of our wedding day cometh once more,  
And its evening will find us still waiting  
Who had thought to have gone long before.”

The poem in full will be found in this book about April, 1872, a printed slip.

Within about 3 weeks I have written in addition to my usual correspondence & other writing, about forty pretty long letters, one to the Secy. of every [County] Medical Society in the State but three, in relation to a matter which I wish to bring before the State Med. Society next June in Philad.

December 31: Friday.

New Years Eve- passing into 1876.

The weather is still dull, cloudy, drizzling, warm. Philad. & many other cities to be illuminated as it ushers in the Centennial year of American Independence.

It is now 9 P.M. Follen & Mary have gone to bed. Ann & Mary & Victor have gone down to our Tenants, next house, to gossip and wait for the New Year to come in. Mike is in the kitchen. Mother is reading by my side, and thus we are disposed of. Bertha and two of her children have been with us two days. She and Mother & Mary have been quilting for Bertha, and Thomas & Bertha Jr. have been enjoying themselves, looking at the young pigs, the Pea-fowls, the chickens, the cows & horses. This afternoon they all went home and left us quite lonely.

## 1876

January 3: Monday.

I went to meet our Committee (Board of Visitors) at Alms-House. Finding they did not come by 12 o'clock, I left there for dinner, and drove down to sister Mary Adamson's (I had her horse & carriage to go from Phenixville [sic] to the Alms-House), took dinner, spent an hour with her, and then took the 2 P.M. train to Norristown. It was Director's Day at the Alms-House, and there were a good many old Democrats there to get a good dinner.

January 18: Tuesday.

By order of chairman of the Court Committee, I met the Committee at the Alms-house today. Spent several hours in investigating charges against the Steward and his subordinates. What they were will appear in our, or my Report.

January 28: Friday.

This afternoon wife & I went to Norristown, she to daughter Tacie's and I to the town to see Judge Ross, with whom I spent an hour, in conversation on jails, Alms-Houses, &c. Also called to see Dr. Danl. Brower, who is at home from Richmond where

he has been several years as Superintendent of an Insane Asylum, but as the rebels have come into power again in Virginia, the Governor removed him to place a rebel in there. He is going to Chicago to commence Practice and wishes me to give him an introduction to N. S. Davis.

For the past three weeks I have been quite busy, practicing, writing, reading, &c., besides having the Alms-House investigation on my hands.

February 4: Friday.

This morning we have a very nice snow of about four or five inches.

On January 4<sup>th</sup> I went to Alms-House alone. It was Director's Day, and Annual Meeting Day. As my brethren of the Board of Visitors did not come, I only staid an hour, then drove to my Sister Mary's, staid an hour and came home by the 2 P.M. train from Phenixville [sic]

Palpitation 10 minutes this evening; January 8<sup>th</sup> 2 hours from 12 to 2 P.[M.];  
January 26, palpation 8 hours, from dinner till 8 P.M.

February 26: Saturday.

Just a month has passed since last writing. This neglect to write, or omission to write would be a more correct expression, arose from an intention to write no more in this book, but to have a new one for the Centennial Year.

I have been so busy practicing, having had many most interesting cases, outside as well as inside of my practice. [I] have had so much to do in writing out my Report for the Court, in relation to the abuse at the Alms-House, also in writing medical papers & in correspondence, that I have been led to a failure to keep up my Diary. Wife went to Philad. today, being uneasy to see Bertha who is near to her confinement with her fourth child. This evening Follen informs me that she has a little daughter, born yesterday, or last night. So wife staid down. I have a bad cold, but for two weeks have kept going by means of a little Morph. nearly every night, which allays the cough through the whole night

March 1: Wednesday.

I have been greatly engaged in Practice every day since last writing. Am sometimes very tired, but seem at present to be under the necessity to write a good deal. Two days since, I sent off an Article to the Medical & Surgical Reporter, several pages. I am also writing on my Alms-House Report, and during the past week wrote my Prison Report.

Fall of Belknap, Secretary of War. Last Thursday evening Follen came home with the Evening Bulletin and read me the sad & startling intelligence that Secretary Belknap had been charged before a Committee of Congress with having sold offices under his control for large sums of money, and that his wife & himself had confessed to it, that he had resigned, and Grant had accepted it before he knew for what he had resigned. Mrs. Belknap was the very leader of fashion & Gaiety in Washington this winter. It is a fearful fall.

March 5: Sunday.

The Belknap disgrace is felt deeply by the American people. It is fearful to

contemplate the spirit of Corruption which is abroad in the land in all classes of Society, from the Cabinet down to the hut of the meanest official of a County or township. The Congress is preparing to impeach Belknap, and the President and his advisors have ordered the Attorney General to arraign him before the Criminal Court. So, Poor Fellow! He is in deep difficulty.

In yesterday's paper, I saw that Marsh, who had bought the office of "Trader at Fort Sill," and who testified against Belknap & his wife was "en route" to Canada, in a fearful fright. He does not seem to have realized until after he gave his testimony how it would press on him. He is liable as well as Belknap to imprisonment & fine.

March 11: Saturday.

I have done a great amt. of practice the past week. There has been an influenza prevailing over a large extent of [the] County, also some pneumonia. I have had many interesting cases. Have bled some of them freely and always in pneumonia with benefit. Have, too, some Diphtheria. Was in the City to see Bertha's youngest child. It got better before I saw it. Went also to see Frannie.

Dr. Thomas Corson's wife deceased. Mrs. Corson was the daughter of George Stever<sup>clxxxii</sup> of Philad., and Dr. Thomas Corson is the son of Dr. Richard Corson (of New Hope, Pa.) long since deceased. Dr. Richard was my preceptor in 1826 till 1828. Burial on next Monday, 13<sup>th</sup>.

A letter from Joseph this week. Expects to start for home May 20<sup>th</sup>. Helen Corson, my niece, expects to leave Paris for home just almost the same time. So if we all live till June, we may have another meeting, a joyous one, I hope. Tacie and her children were brought down by Mary on Tuesday morning, and they all staid with us till Friday evening when she took them home again in the carriage. Her husband, Wm. L. Cresson, has gone out of partnership with his brother-in-law, Mr. Wright. What he will get at now is quite uncertain.

Nobody at home now, but Mother and Mary and Follen & self. Ann & Mary, Victor & Mike. Follen not at home this morning. Our family is therefore very small.

March 13: Monday.

Follen brought me this today [a new book], my old one being full. I have been attending a good many quite sick people today, several in Conshohocken. Hon. John Wood's child, and his grand children, Capt. Mauck's<sup>clxxxiii</sup> children, also James Harry's, Mrs. Clever's, &c., then a number in Spring Mill, and Mrs. Vancourt in Norristown.

I have an extremely bad cold, for which I take 1/12<sup>th</sup> gr. Morph, twice or three times daily with complete comfort. Follen has gone to a "Reading Circle," Mary is playing the piano, "Mother" is sewing, and I having just finished the "Bulletin," dotted some [of] the above.

March 14: Tuesday.

Practiced all the forenoon, had eaten but little breakfast, could take almost no dinner, felt greatly nauseated after dinner [and] felt that I must lie down and did so until about 4 P.M., when I felt as though I must vomit. It just occurred to me, that it was perhaps a dyspeptic feeling, so got Mary to bring me two teaspoonsful of "Aperient." I had not had it more than 1/4 hour before I felt greatly relieved and got up and rode several

miles visiting a patient. [I] felt pretty good during the evening, though I ate very sparingly of supper.

March 15: Wednesday.

Practiced moderately. Rec'd. a letter from our friend & summer neighbor, Geo. Pettit, Artist, to visit his studio [at] Chestnut Street above 13<sup>th</sup> Thursday, Friday, or Saturday, to see his painting, the work of a year, "The Cremation of Julius Cesar." Mother & myself talk of going tomorrow. Everyday some new corruption is developed throughout the land. Hearing-time in Congress now, with the Belknap case. Marsh, the witness being away, it will not be possible to convict Belknap. Bank of N. York has failed through mismanagement of the President.

March 16: Thursday.

[Was] called at breakfast to attend Mrs. Michael Wood, with first child. As it was very rainy, I staid in the house all day till 5 P.M. Child born 4 ½ P.[M.], [a] son. Visited M. O'Brien's child with fits, and after I got home, went by rig to see brother Alan W. Corson, now in his 88<sup>th</sup> year. He has the prevailing Influenza. Got home with the last beams of day. The night closed in dark and raining, and I feel thankful that my work was so well done up during the day-time. I hope never to feel it necessary to go at night again.

March 17: Friday.

Practiced till noon, then went to Philad. to buy some clothes, but more especially to see the painting by my young friend George Pettit, now of Philad., "The Cremation of the body of Julius Cesar." I went to Frannie & she went with me. We walked up Chestnut from 8<sup>th</sup>. After stopping a few minutes at Bailey's window to look at one of the most beautiful paintings I have ever seen, A Norway scene by-----[empty space], we passed on, when I was suddenly struck by a palpitation. But we were near the place, so we walked on, and I slowly ascended the three flights of stairs, and I took a seat on the front row, almost the only vacant chair. I remained here nearly an hour, not wishing to go into the street until [it was] nearly time to go to the train, for it was as pleasant there and could have [a] good time to see the picture. The picture is truly a splendid one, and but for the fact that it was about as much as I could do to sit up, I should have enjoyed it greatly. After a good time looking at it, and a pleasant talk with George & his family in the studio (next room), Frannie & self went to the cars. I got in the very last car and the last seat of one side, so no one need go past me. There I was reclining when Follen came in looking for me. So I raised up and sat up though it was as much as I could do. I had told Frannie not to tell him that I had palpitation. I got home and as brother Alan was quite poorly, I rode up there, the boy driving for me. After supper [I] went to bed, no one yet discovering my condition. At midnight, I told [my] wife how I was. But as she could not do anything for me, I fell asleep and after two awoke & found it had gone off.

March 18: Saturday.

I felt pretty well today. Practiced all day. "Jay & Susan," here to tea. Mary went to Philad. She bought several things for herself & her mother, and a box of 240 envelopes for me costing only 65 cents. It has blown up fearfully cold tonight.

The Medical & Surgical Reporter of this week contains an article for me entitled, "Ice water and Ice in S[carlet] Fever & Diphtheria, who originated the practice." Brother William had read it just before I went into his office this afternoon. He complimented it greatly. He thought it was just the all sufficient on that subject and done in the proper style.

March 19: Sunday.

Practiced but very little. Wrote the last of my Report, or rather of the copy. Went to see brother Alan in afternoon. He has not been well for several days.

Thermometer down to 15° this morning. Sam & Ida spent the evening here.

March 20: Monday.

8 A.M. Just as I write, a messenger comes in with [a] postal card from Mrs. Howard Wood, saying she fears Helen (Daughter) has Scarlet Fever or Diphtheria, and wishing me to come at once.

Monday, 9 P.[M.]. Have practiced pretty steadily, but had also to go to Norristown to attend Court as a witness. [The] trial [was] put off, so got away without delay.

Great Eastern snow storm ever since noon, now turning into rain. Follen & Mother have gone to bed, and as I have gotten through the Bulletin, and the Medical Times, Mary & myself will close our labors & shut up the fires.

March 21: Tuesday.

Practiced till noon, starting at 7 A.[M.]. Took an early dinner, and at one P.M., met the Court Committee to see if we could agree on a report. Met at Montgomery House in Norristown. Found that the three good Democrats were leagued together as one man against me. Dr. Pawling read the report which he had drawn up, and then wanted to know if I could sign it. I assured him I would not and pointed out to him some inaccuracies, but it was of no use. He was as insolent and offensive as he could be, and we soon adjourned to meet again day after tomorrow, at the same place at noon. The man, Mr. Kinsy [sic], who is looking after the financial matters, will also be there to report.

March 22: Wednesday.

It is now nearly eleven P.M., and have just put the last page to my report. The folks here all but Ann been in bed an hour and a half at least.

I have practiced a good deal today, and written & corrected my Report a good deal. Tomorrow I am to meet that pestilent committee again. How will I get along? Bearing up against the whole party?

March 23: Thursday.

Practice rapidly till 12 noon, ate dinner & reached Norristown at 1 P.[M.], met the Committee at 1 ½, as soon as they had finished dinner. They had Dr. Geigy present, also Kinsey, the accountant, and they had sent for C. Hunsicker, the Directors Lawyer, but he did not come. They, after a good deal of talk, signed the Report. I refused. So we parted. Dr. Pawling was quite courteous to me today, a little ashamed I presume of his



behavior on Tuesday. I left Norristown at 5 o'clock and have ridden a great many miles since & have visited a number of patients who had sent while I was away. I have just gotten through with them.

I must add a little to my report and alter the beginning to suit what happened today, or rather to off-set something they said in their report, and I shall hope to have it ready to present tomorrow, for they have presented theirs. But it is too late & I am too tired to do it tonight.

March 24: Friday.

I have had a good deal of the best kind of practice today, about 20 families, so have not been able to write on my report at all. Sent Mary to Norristown to see if I could not have a day or two to finish [it]. Lawyer Hunsicker says, yes. So [I] will go to bed without writing any more, till tomorrow.

March 25: Saturday.

Up early, wrote in my Report, and as soon as breakfast was over, practiced rapidly till noon. After dinner, went to Norristown, read my report to brother William. [He] thought well of it. An awful rainy day all day.

Rec'd. a letter a few days ago from Dr. Stiles Kennedy of Michigan, who knows me only by my writings. I will paste it here. Today I have rec'd. one from a Dr. McWilliams of Chicago, also a stranger. I will paste it in too.

**Editor's note:** The letters mentioned are not in the diary.

March 26: Sunday.

Practiced till noon, intending to write after dinner. Jay & Susan came to dinner. After dinner [I] had three men come for me, so had to go on. Took Ida, my niece, with me to Hon. Jno. Wood's & over the Schuylkill. Got home to tea. [Had] a call for me to George Rex's son, [on] the Ridge Road, three miles. Jay went with me after supper. Mrs. Rex is in great pain in side. A neighbor has died within a few days of pneumonia, under Dr. Peltz. [There is] great alarm about pneumonia, all over the County, because of its great fatality, and the fatality is owing to the treatment, by whiskey, poultices over the chest, &c., instead of bleeding, cupping, blister[ing], &c. I pursue the old plan and when I do, do not lose a single patient.

Jay & Susan left at nine P.M. Not a soul beside "mother" & myself about the House, save "Mike," the boy.

March 27: Monday.

Practiced hard all day, 17 families. Had to go twice over some of the routes. Sent a letter to Dr. McWilliams, Chicago. Have added two pages to my Alms-House Report, this evening. Mary came home from Tacie's today. Follen is off to a reading circle tonight.

March 28: Tuesday.

Rec'd. a letter today from Mattie Coulston on several subjects. She was formerly

a teacher in our Schools, now is wife of Wm. Coulston & lives in Chester Co. The other letter was from Prof. Cleaveland of Woman's Medical College.

Practiced all day, wrote a letter to Mrs. Coulston, enclosing my bill, &c., &c., also one to my nephew Tom Foulke, at Robertsdale, Pa. in relation to a patient for Woman's Medical College. [It] has been a fearfully rainy afternoon.

Read & wrote all the evening. [It is] now nearly 10 o'clock at night, so will go to bed. Sent my Alms-House report to be filed in Court today.

March 29: Wednesday.

Up before sunrise. Called the men and after a short time, the East was a grand spectacle, and I could realize the fidelity of the Poet's description of the rising of the sun. Indeed nothing could be more beautiful, and I was so impressed by it, that I will, if I remember it tonight, insert it here:

“But, yonder comes the powerful King of day,  
Rejoicing in the East,  
The lessening cloud, the kindling azure  
And the Mountains brow, illumed with fluid gold  
His near approach, betoken glad.”

Evening. Practiced much today. Consultation with Dr. Fulton. Rec'd. a letter from Dr. Hand of St. Paul, Minnesota, one also from an Editor in N. York, who wishes me to let their publishing house in N. Y. publish my writings on S. Fever. I really ought to have published in book form my various papers. This is the fourth time persons have written to me asking to let them publish them.

I sent one letter to Wm. H. Holstein, one to Mrs. Mattie Coulston & one to Priscilla Wistar, a postal card to Henry C. Bowen to not send the Independent after subscription expires, one to Frank Johnson, fence maker at Pennlyn [sic].

Just 9 P.M. Wife & Mary & self have all been writing for the last hour. Rec'd. Report for 1875 of Indiana Female Prison & Reformatory Institution for Females.

March 31: Friday.

On Thursday forenoon practiced industriously. After dinner took wife in by carriage to Norristown to do some business. While sitting reading in Williams office, was attacked by palpitation. We came home by way of Tacie's, where we stopped half hour or so. I lying on the sofa during the time, I felt very badly. Never felt worse in a palpitation, but drove home, went to bed, got up & took some supper, then went to bed. Was up & down several times during the night. At 3 A.M. it went off. It had been on me 13 hours. I got up to breakfast at 7, began to practice at 8, and have cont'd. it all day. Visited 17 families. Have felt pretty well too. Just as I wrote that sentence, had an attack, but it lasted but a minute. Letter from Joseph today. Wrote & sent several this morning.

April 2: Saturday.

Evening, 9 o'clock. Practiced all Saturday and forenoon of today. Wrote & read this afternoon. Dr. Ellwood, my nephew & his wife called at 5 P.[M.] & staid to tea.

April 3: Monday.

Practiced not a great deal today, had some money to collect. Gave Ellwood \$200 to send to his sister Helen. He will deposit with Drexel & Co. in Philad. & she will draw on their House in Paris. I have now loaned her \$1,800 in less than 20 months.

Very rainy today. My new man, John Hauce [sic], came today. I give him \$20 per month & allow him to live in the frame house at the lower part of the lot, rent free. He boards himself.

A letter from cousin Thomas J. Corson, M.D., eight copies of Journal of Health from the publishers, in N. York, as a compliment for my last article on S. Fever in the "Reporter." They will publish part of the article.

Follen has gone to stay at Bertha's tonight, so as to be able to go with a party of gentlemen to view a place for a new bathing ground, down near Cape May.

April 5: Wednesday.

Practiced a good deal. Attended the School Board, for a short time. It is really a shame to have a school conducted as the Barren Hill one is under W. Lukens, the local Director, with a Miss Hallman, an ill-natured Teacher.

I procured a horse today for Dr. Richard Foulke, and will sent it up to him tomorrow by his man who came down today to take him up.

April 6: Thursday.

Zack started about 7 A.M., with the horse. I practiced till noon. Afternoon went to meet a man at Pennlyn [sic], to sell logs to him. Visited one patient going up, and "Uncle Alan" coming down. Beautiful day. Got the men off to Conshohocken early, to make [a] fence around the nine lots on 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. Several women came to get the broken poles & rails "to start the fire with." They are very poor, many of them, and no work. I see no prospect of better times coming this year. The "Iron Business" is fearfully depressed. The prices for pig iron steadily declines, and though wages are somewhat lower than a year ago, they are not in proportion to the fall in iron, and coal continues high. D. O. Hitner has but one Furnace out of three running, & I think he will blow that out soon.

Mary has gone to Germantown to stay till Monday with her Aunt Priscilla Wistar, and Follen has gone to Richard H. Day's, with Mary Lukens to tea. Geo. Corson (E. H. Corson's son) and a Miss Forman are also to be there. Frannie is trying to make a match of the latter two. I have made several in my time & they did well enough. I think F. may succeed, for they both are looking out for partners.

Nobody home this morning but wife & self. She has been copying receipts for cakes, &c. and writing letters, and I writing in my Day book, Diary, &c. Don't want to start [a] new letter tonight. 9 P.[M.] & Mary closing the shutters.

April 9: Sunday.

Intended to do but little today. But yesterday having been called in Consultation by Dr. Newberry in the case of Mr. Amos Corson, whom I found dying of pneumonia, just for want of good blood-letting, and having an appointment to meet there again this morning, I went over, 4 miles, to Flourtown. On my return found Geo. W. Davis who

wanted me to see his child in Consultation with Dr. McKinsy [sic], a former student of mine. This is a fearful case of acute inflame. of brain. Had other calls too, one to Jos. Right's wife & one to C. Streeper's son. So the whole day was taken up.

April 10: Monday.

Yesterday advised & poured water on the head of Davis' child, iced water, poured on by the pitcherful after pitcherful, Leeches to head, &c. Today I find it out of danger. Nothing like doing the right thing at the right time. The Doctor was pottering along with a little aconite. It had only been sick 30 hours & yet it was like a dying child when I saw it. A day more of dallying and it would have been past recovery.

April 12: Wednesday.

Practiced a great deal.

April 13: Thursday.

John, the man, took wife & self in the two horse carriage to Amos Corson's funeral at 11 A.M., and from there to Moreland to the funeral of "Cousin George Spencer," as wife always calls him, and which she is right in doing, as he was first-cousin to her father and one of his most intimate friends all his long life. He was also one of the most exemplary men of the age, a noble gentleman. [He] married late in life & left no children. Was in his 89<sup>th</sup> year, buried at old Horsham Meeting house. We got home at 6 ½ P.[M.].

April 14: Friday.

Practiced. Got letter from Wm. H. Johnson, giving strong endorsement, or approbation to my Scarlet Fever article. Practiced a good deal. Farmer putting in our oats. Have man in garden. Mother has the dining room grand beautifully.

April 15: Saturday.

Death of Dr. Edward Livezey. This evening I was shocked when "mother" told me of the death of Edward Livezey. I had been his physician since his birth, his preceptor for two years, his friend, as he was mine, always. This day one week ago he was at his father's in good health. On Wednesday last as I was sitting in the 5 P.M. train at 9<sup>th</sup> & Green depot, his mother stopped to tell me that he was sick with rheumatism, and seemed like the other boys, meaning John & Henry, who both died after a sickness of only a few days. But as she was on her way home, I did not deem him very sick and thought no more about it till his death was announced. How sad it seems! My friend, and, now, patient Alice Albertson too, is very ill. I think she is seriously so, although she is about the dining room and quite cheerful. Her limbs are greatly swelled, and she has a large swelling or tumor in the lower part of the abdomen. She is very sallow today and has a haggard look. I know she will go on steadily to decline and her time will not be long here. I feel very sad about it. She was among my school-mates. I have been the physician of her family always. We have been the best of friends. No shadow of coolness ever came over us. She was always a cheerful, pleasant friend on whom I could rely, and now she is the only lady friend in this neighborhood left to me of all those friends of my youth, the only link that connects me with the age & people of that past. She is the last of my female school-mates resident in this neighborhood.

April 16: Sunday.

Evening. Practiced considerably today, despite my wish not to do it. Jay & Susan made a short visit to us after dinner. Follen had gone to Tacie's, at Norristown, to bring Richard Day and Frannie & their little Bertha down to spend the afternoon & night with us. They have now all gone to bed. She is a sweet child. Wrote a letter to Dr. George Maulsby of Washington, D. C.

April 17: Monday.

Practiced a good deal. Wrote to Joseph since 8 P.M. Rec'd. a letter from a Dr. in Indiana, asking me for my paper on "Aperient Solution," which is published in the "Transactions" of the State Medical Society. Frannie still here. She and Mary, her sister, have been paying Calls this afternoon.

April 18: Tuesday.

Went to Dr. Edward Livezey's funeral in Philad. There was much preaching, a great many people. The family came up in four carriages, and a good many people came by the Cars. All were up and in the Meeting house by 1 P.M. 3 sermons in Meeting house & a good many people. Wife and myself were there. After the funeral, I visited quite a good many patients. Frannie & her mother went to Philad. at 3 ½ P.[M.]. Wife will stay till tomorrow evening.

Sent a letter to Joseph today, and a letter and Reporter containing my S. Fever article to Doctor G. W. H. Kemper, Muncie, Indiana [sic].

April 19: Wednesday.

Follen & Mary went in 3 P.M. train from Germantown Junction to Trenton from where they were to go two miles to Jos. Vanhorn's to be present at Ed Corson Foulke's wedding with Miss Vanhorn. Mother sent by them a Silver Ice Pitcher as a present from us. Mary took a present and Follen took a Silver Waiter as his present.

I practiced rapidly till noon, then went as a witness in a case at Court. Trial postponed till 24<sup>th</sup> May. Mother came home at 6 P.M. There are only us two at home tonight, besides the servants.

Sent a letter to Halberstadt (Dr. H.) of Pottsville and one to Mary Horton of Chester Co.

April 21: Friday.

Evening, 9 o'clock. I have been very busy yesterday, having my plowing done, my paths laid with brick, fence put up, lawns raked up, &c., &c., besides quite a great number of patients.

Last evening we got a letter from Joseph, saying that his programme had been attend, that he had rec'd. orders to report to Headquarters at N. York, for examination & promotion, that therefore he will come on, with his family and have them with us, then go next day to N. York, to report, then come here to await further orders.

Sent a postal card to Sister Mary today that I would be up on Sunday in the 11:15 train.

April 23: Sunday.

Went at noon to see Sister Mary. Had a pleasant time with her. Elijah E. Pennypacker & wife came after dinner. At 5 P.M. Elijah took me to [the] Cars in Phenixville [sic]. At 6, went with brother Wm. in Norristown to see John J. Corson's only child, which was very sick. On getting home at 7 ½, found that five persons had called for me. After supper went to Joseph Freas' & also to a patient in Conshohocken, called at L. A. Lukens' and brought Follen home. He was spending the evening with Mary, his betrothed.

April 24: Monday.

Did not practice a great deal today, but besides keeping the men employed to best advantage in cleaning up the yard, I fixed the grape vines & had some trees trimmed.

Wrote two letters, one to Mrs. Garrison and one to Mary Adamson, & also sent a copy of Reporter containing my last article. Rec'd. a letter from Dr. Geo. Maulsby of Washington City.

April 25: Tuesday.

Practiced. Went to Norristown on business, and to Pennlyn [sic] to see how [the] workmen were getting along. A busy day, but nothing noteworthy, save that Mrs. Howard Wood brot Susan up to spend the day with us. In the public world, investigation goes on in Congress and in State Legislatures, most astonishly [sic]. Briston & Genl. Belknap & Blame and even Grant, the President, are all being charged with complicity in money frauds, and hundreds of others, in various places.

April 26: Wednesday.

Practiced. Read & conducted affairs at home, and went to Pennlyn [sic] to direct mason, carpenter, painter, &c. We are fixing up the big house for rent to citizens.

April 28: Friday.

Yesterday after practicing till noon, I went at 3 P.M. to Philad. Went to Dr. Burnell's, 1913 Green St., to see an old family Bible, which I have been after for some months. It is the old Bible of the Dungan's of Bucks Co., now 198 years old. It is a small, but solid duodecimo. From it I copied what there was of the history of the births & deaths of the Dungan family, one of which my Father's, Mother was ---

Got to James Yocom's at 6 ½ P.[M.], took tea there with Bertha & her family. Then at 7 ½ went to St. George's Hall, corner of 13<sup>th</sup> & Arch St., to hear Professor Proctor, the celebrated English Astronomer, lecture on "the Birth and Death of Worlds." It was a splendid affair. Nearly fifty illustrations, on the large screen, of the appearance of the heavenly bodies, the worlds. Oh! what a wonderful thing is the Universe, what a mere speck is this great Earth!! What a trifling thing an individual, a State, a Nation? I cannot write any description of the wonders which he presented to our eyes & our minds. Brother William was with me. We came up in the 10:35 P.M. Cars, tired enough. Follen met me at Sp. Mill and by midnight I was safe in bed.

Today I have had much to do in practice besides going to Norristown with "Mother" (wife) to purchase things.

Have rec'd. several letters within a few days.

April 29: Saturday.

Practiced till noon, and just before I got home, was taken with palpitation at Barren Hill. I cont'd. till 5 P.M. I have been over it but about an hour. Here is Mary who is bringing Follen from the Cars, and with him are Frannie & Thomas Yocom, Bertha's two oldest children. I am real glad to see them. I told Bertha to be sure to send them. They are fine little things, and are so shut up there in the city, that I want them to enjoy themselves here. Oh! it is the most splendid evening, the air is warm, the grass as green and fresh looking as possible. The yard & lawn are most beautiful. They were well mannered for weeks, and have been perfectly cleaned, so that now they are splendid.

May 4: Thursday.

Yesterday while attending the School Board at Barren Hill, I was struck with palpitation at 4  $\frac{3}{4}$  P.M. I took a weak stimulant which I had with me, also  $\frac{1}{4}$  gr. Morph. I rode down to John Rex's a mile below and then came home, stopping by the way twice to see patients. Took a good deal of Morph. through the night, 1 grain, also some in the morning. The pains through my chest were fearful, and were aggravated by every dose of Morph. Sent for Ellwood after breakfast. Gotten a little better before he came. I believe all those pains through my chest, and they were numerous and fearful, were produced by the Morph. I am satisfied that after the first two  $\frac{1}{4}$  grains, the pains were greatly increased by any dose. Just as they were in a tooth ache which I had allayed several times by Morph. At last, every dose aggravated [it]. I took seven in one day and the pain, at last, nearly set me crazy. The palpitation went off about 7 A.M. [It lasted] 14 hours. Ellwood attended to my patients. Could not do anything today.

May 6: Saturday.

I am pretty well recovered. A letter from Joseph says, the Dr. to relieve him has not yet come, but they expect him every hour.

I rec'd. the above letter & two others from persons a week after my last publication on S. Fever. The others I need and will not put them here.

May 7: Sunday.

The whole United States seem to be all agog with excitement in anticipation of the opening of the Centennial Exposition on Wednesday morning next, May 10<sup>th</sup>. The preparations made by the different Rail Road Companies almost exceeds belief. I must paste in here some of their announcements. Flags are already streaming from countless houses in every village & town, and in Philad. But on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May, they will amaze the looker-on.

This is a delightful morning. It is yet only a little after sunrise. I practiced a good deal yesterday, but hope to do but little today.

May 8: Monday.

I brought dgt. Bertha & her Georgiana from Sandy Hill, this morning. Her two oldest children have been with us a week. Bertha looks pale and weak for her to look. The nursing that big child is too much for her.

The Country is wonderfully excited about the Centennial. There are so many distinguished foreigners here from all over the world. This Philad. has a strange look.

I have had a young girl very ill with pneumonia since 3 P.M. yest[erday]. Have bled her 3 times and cupped her once in that time, and I think have checked the disease.

Have written three long letters today, and last evening. Have rec'd. two.

May 10: Wednesday.

Centennial Exposition Opening.

Follen left at the usual time for Philad., or rather to take Mary Lukens to the grand opening of the Centennial Exposition. It rained last night and the morning is cloudy, but with the wind in the West & a prospect of clear weather. I would have liked to go and take Mary, but was afraid to weary myself by doing so. The Country & little towns have been drained of people.

Follen returned in the evening train and reports 250,000 as being present, and yet so ample are the grounds that there was no crowding, save at the Depots this evening. Rain began to fall about 5 P.M., and of course the tens of thousands crowded to the various R. R. Depots. I here paste the Evening Bulletin reports of this occasion. The hymn, by Whittier, is very beautiful.

**Editor's note:** No report is actually pasted in the diary at this point.

May 12: Friday.

Follen had a despatch [sic] or Telegram yesterday at 3 P.[M.] from Joseph, from Columbus, Ohio, that they were on their way and would be at 9<sup>th</sup> & Green Depot, to take the train to Conshohocken at 9 A.M. today. So Mary took the little mare and Phaeton and I took the black mare & the Grey horse to the big carriage and were at Conshohocken by 9 ½ & then we waited till ¼ of 12 when they came. Their train had lost time & they failed to reach the 9 A.M., Joseph & Ada & their child, Mary Carter Corson, only about 4 months old., and Ada's Aunt Lucy, a maiden lady, about 60, I suppose. They had not stopped half an hour at a time since they took the Cars at Mobile last Tuesday. They had their eatables with them. They could also make tea or coffee for themselves on the train whenever they desired. So they came on comfortably.

May 13: Saturday.

Evening. Joseph & self have ridden around a good deal today and this afternoon went to Norristown after visiting a patient or two.

This evening Jaywood Lukens & Susan came up and they are all in the parlor enjoying themselves very pleasantly.

May 14: Sunday.

All the children at home today. Joseph & wife & child 4 mo., Tacie Cresson & husband, Susan Lukens & husband, Bertha Yocom & James Yocom her husband, & their daughter Frannie, Frannie S. C. Day & Richard Day her husband and their 8 month old daughter Bertha. "Aunt Lucy" was also with us. Mrs. Fritz, Dr. Ellwood M. Corson, my nephew, & his wife Maggie also came about 5 P.M., and in the evening Samuel M. Corson, my nephew & Ida his sister came over. So we had quite a pleasant time,



saddened only by the memory that Dear Edward & Caroline could not be with us. But they are as well off.

May 15: Monday.

Today I attended the funeral of my friend Daniel Clarke Wharton, who died a few days ago, after an illness of nearly two years, though but little of the time confined to bed. It is now three or four years perhaps since the celebrated trial of Mrs. Wharton for poisoning General Ketchum of the "Regular Army" of the U.S. Mrs. Wharton had but one daughter, and Mr. Wharton's son became deeply sympathetic in the case, engaged himself to her, and in opposition to his family's wish. This was greatly mortifying and was, I think, the cause of his breaking down. He was a most pleasant, cheerful man, happy as he could be, but this sad blow was too much for him.

Jos. went this morning to N. York for examination and to be assigned to duty, in that Department.

May 17: Wednesday.

Nothing out of the usual line. Follen was well enough to go to the City. I was not very well, but cont'd. at business.

Just at evening, Jacob Breisch came to get me to go see his Mother, in Philad., supposed to be dying. I promised him to go early tomorrow morning.

Read a great deal of Joe Johnson's History of his part of the War, in the Southern Confederacy.

Rec'd. four letters today. Wrote four

May 20: Saturday.

Mrs. Leidy, wife of Professor Joseph Leidy came to see us yesterday. I met her at Conshohocken at 9 A.M. and brought her up. Ada, Aunt Lucy & Mother had a pleasant day with her.

At 4 P.M. I met the Professor himself at Consho. I then took him up the Creek on the other side of the River, to gather a few flowers on which to lecture at Swarthmore today. We then came home, where we found all the friends, and also brother Wm. Corson. We had a pleasant evening. The Professor is one of the most unaffected of men, and so interesting! In the evening at 8, they left for home.

This evening at 6 o'clock Joseph arrived from N. York. He is in good spirits, there being several good posts, from which he may select one for himself.

Dr. Beaver called to see him yesterday. He is desirous to have Jos. in partnership with him. He says they can collect 12 to 14 thousand Dollars a year. I do not think Joseph will accept.

I have been much troubled with diarrhea accompanied by pain, for the past two days, but it has not put me from work.

Mary & Ida visited the "Centennial" today. A wonderful Exhibition.

May 21: Sunday.

Practiced but little, was very well, took a good deal of rest.

May 22: Monday.

“Mother,” Aunt Lucy & Joseph went to the great Centennial Exposition. I practiced a little and wrote some. Dr. Brinton, the Editor of the Reporter, enclosed to me a letter from Dr. Trumbaugh to himself asking for my Essays on Scarlet Fever. I replied to it.

May 26: Friday.

Evening. Joseph & self practiced today till noon. After noon he went to see a few patients and on his return, we went to Pennlyn [sic] to see the tenant, and the old Home. We have no tenant for the latter yet.

“Mother” (wife) & “Aunt Lucy” were in Philad. shopping today and returned pretty tired.

Joseph was in N. York yesterday and came back with an understanding that he may remain here 10 days; then report for duty, to get his Station.

The Centennial Exposition [is] a great success, 29,000 to 30,000 daily.

May 30: Tuesday.

We have been going along as usual for several days. Joseph is now at home. Follen says that there were it is believed 50,000 people at the Exposition today. It being a holiday, “Decoration Day,” which is now a HolyDay [sic], the people were at leisure to go. Brother Alan now in his 89<sup>th</sup> year was there all day, and came home in the evening Cars.

Rec’d. 4 letters today, and two reports from physicians to embody in my report. One was from Dr. Brinton, Editor of Med. & Surg. Reporter, proposing to publish my S. Fever Essay, if I would get up one, in book-form.

Tomorrow will be the day of meeting of the State Medical Society, in Philad. I hope to go.

June 1: Thursday.

Evening. I am just home from the Meeting of the State Medial Society, which convened yesterday in Dr. Wiley’s Church, corner of Broad and Pine St., or near the corner. There was a large attendance. The thing which created the warmest discussion, was a motion of mine to print with the “Transactions” of the present year, a report presented by Dr. Andrew Nebinger in 1869 on Infanticide, and which was refused admission into the Transactions of that year. There were some able speeches on my side, and we carried it by a vote of 75 to 12. I had taken the trouble to write to every Co. Society but three, on the subject, & also had sent each one a copy of the Report, so they came understanding the subject. It was a triumph over Sectarianism. It had been rejected because Hebinger was a Catholic. We had entertainments at Dr. Levis’ & at Dr. Atlee’s on yesterday evening, and this evening there was to be a banquet at the Old Cabinet of Nat. Sciences, but I thought [it] better to come home.

Joseph’s ten days will expire tomorrow, and he expects to go on to N. York in the morning.

June 2: Friday.

Joseph left for N. York & Plattsburg [sic] this morning, his new Station. I practiced all day pretty briskly.

While making a speech yesterday on the Nebinger case, I was taken with palpitation, but it passed off without much difficulty in about half an hour. I met a great many men of my acquaintance from the interior of the State.

Edward Wistar & Sister Lizzie & his "gal" were here to tea this evening.

**Editor's note:** Pasted in the diary at this point is a four page letter of thanks from Dr. Nebinger who, like others, refers to Dr. Corson's honesty of purpose, high sense of justice and his "sleepless determination that right should triumph."

June 6: Tuesday.

Today I attended the meeting of the Am. Med. Association in Philad. at Horticultural Hall. I rose early, practiced rapidly till 9 A.M., then took the Cars to Philad. In the Cars I met brother William & Geo. Bullock, Esq., member of the Board of Public Charities. Had a pleasant talk in relation to Insane Hospitals, &c. Then went to see little Frannie Yocom, Bertha's daughter, who had a very sore throat. Then went to the Hall on Broad St., registered as a member of the Board of Delegates from Montgomery County. We had a fine session, a grand address from Dr. Marion Sims of N. York who went directly against Dr. Gross' pet project, "a law for regulating Prostitution in the United States, similar to the English law." Dr. Sims advocated regulating it by a law, exactly like that by which we would regulate, or restrain the spread of smallpox or other contagious diseases. At 1 ½ P.M., [the] Society adjourned, and I went to Continental Restaurant to dinner. There I met Dr. Stewart of the City of Erie, Pa., whom I was desirous to meet. We dined together and at 3 P.M. I took the Cars for home. Have done some practice since, and am now ready for bed.

June 7: Wednesday.

I have been to the Society meeting today and visited Bertha's Daughter, Frannie. She has a bad Quincy.

June 8: Thursday.

Visited the Society Meeting today and returned at 1 ½ and practiced.

June 9: Friday.

Attended the Am. Med. Assoc., returned at 3 P.M. Made acquaintance, by being introduced, with several prominent physicians from abroad. Meeting adjourned at 1 PM.

June 10: Saturday.

Practiced today. Joseph came home in the evening. He was telegraphed to at Plattsburg [sic] by the "War Department" to go immediately to Mont Vernon, Ala., from whence he so recently came, as a witness before a Court Martial. He will leave here tomorrow evening.

Follen and Ada & Mary Lukens were at a "Matinee," in Philad. today and returned just after Joseph arrived.

June 15: Thursday.

I have again to write the Report of our Society to the State Med. Society. I am

now strongly at it. Practice is not pressing, which suits me well. Ada, her "Aunt Lucy" & Mary Corson, our daughter, went to the Centennial today & had a good time.

The great Republican Convention is now in Session at Cincinnati to nominate a Candidate for the Presidency of the U. S. We have just heard this evening that James G. Blaine has been nominated.

June 19: Monday.

I paste here the Hymn composed by our Quaker Poet John G. Whittier, and sung at the opening of the Centennial Exposition, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 1876. It is to my mind very beautiful, as all his poems are.

June 20: Tuesday.

Was up very early. Got palpitation just as I was going to see Howard Wood's child at 11 A.M., after having been riding all the morning and having been very well. Rode home, and as dinner was not quite ready, laid down in [the] office, on the settee. It went off in a short time. No one knew it.

June 21: Wednesday.

We are expecting Joseph from Mt. Vernon, Ala., this morning. He left here last Sunday evening a week ago. If he should return this morning, he will have gone all the way to the Gulf of Mexico & back in nine days, and have served as a witness in a Court-Martial.

Mother & Aunt Lucy are getting ready (now 7 A.M.) to go to Philad. after breakfast.

July 2: Sunday.

As will be perceived, I have not written since June 21<sup>st</sup>. Nothing of special interest has occurred since, but before that, about the 10<sup>th</sup> of June, Helen Corson, my niece, who has been almost two years in Paris, France, returned. We were very glad to have her home again. We hope she has improved in her Studies of Art, for she has labored hard and it has cost her \$2000. This money I raised for her, loaned it to her, and to compensate me, I am to receive the rents of her houses in Conshohocken. But so bad have the times been that I have rec'd. very little money yet. A few days ago, she told me that she expected a young man who is studying Art, and who has been in Europe 4 years, and whom she met in Paris a year ago, would arrive in the Steamer "Italy," about the 25<sup>th</sup> and would then be here to see her. Yesterday at 2 P.M. he arrived at her house from Conshohocken, where he had hired a carriage. It now appears that they are engaged to be married. I called on them this morning. He is a clever looking young man, named John Love. [He] is an unassuming, plain man, takes on no airs, but I have not had five minutes talk with him yet, and must therefore reserve my opinion of him. They will be here after tea when I may know more of him. Our Pheaton [phaeton] has been beautifully done up, and they are to take a ride in it this evening.

Besides the events on the opposite side, Joseph & family left us on Monday morning, June 26<sup>th</sup>, for Plattsburg [sic], N. York, where he is stationed. We have had a letter [that] they got safely there.

Just as dinner was ready (today), my son Follen came into the office to me, with a Telegram, announcing the death of my old and beloved friend, Wm. H. Johnson of Newtown, Bucks Co.

It was only last week that he sent me his photograph, and two days since I wrote him a reply, in which I spoke particularly of his great labors. He was, I think, in his 84<sup>th</sup> year. It is only about a month since he was at the Centennial, and spent the day there. I know nothing of his illness. It is a grief to me that I cannot attend his funeral.

(I went yesterday to Phenixville [sic] to see my sister Mary Adamson, in her 84<sup>th</sup> year also, and a long-time sufferer, with cough & weakness. I found her able to sit up out of bed & converse pleasantly, and while we were alone laughing and talking, I was attacked by palpitation. It lasted me about half an hour, then went off, and I came down home in the train to Norristown at least, and from there Mary brought me. But I was very weary and in the evening was attacked by bowel complaint, from having eaten a great amount of cherries. So, though I have stopped the diarrhea, I am feeling very weak, and the Thermometer standing at about 90° in the shade, I do not think it would be safe for me to go to the funeral, especially too as there will be a good deal of carriage-riding.)

Wm. H. Johnson was a Quaker by birth, and from his youth up, was a remarkable man. Earnestly engaged in the improvement of schools, in the abolition of slavery, & the use of intoxicating drinks, he never wearied of these labors, and a most efficient worker he was, in them all. It was my special privilege to know him well, and to profit by his wise example and counsel. But he has gone from us all, and gone for ever.

Thus one after one, the friends pass away from me. I am now nearly 72 years old and by no means strong and vigorous as I used to be. Just as I wrote those last words an hour ago, I felt a threatening palpitation & so laid myself down on the sofa & slept. Feel refreshed. I will wait until tomorrow before making a final decision about going to the funeral.

July 5: Wednesday.

Did not go to the funeral. Weather was so intensely hot and I felt weak and weary, also had an engagement to prove a will in Philad., [the] will of John Beezly [sic]. Did that on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, the day of the funeral.

July 8: Saturday.

Evening. Took a patient to Philad. for consultation with Dr. Weir Mitchell. Returned by 10 o'clock train. Practiced somewhat.

July 10: Monday.

Had a spell of palpitation two days ago, and this morning at 8 ½ it came again. I started out to practice with it beating away, and cont'd. at it till noon. Soon after reaching home, and after lying down a few minutes, it went off. I then took dinner and went to bed. Just before 3 P.M., I turned over suddenly and it came on again. But as I had been called to go to Joseph Keech's five miles away, over the Schuylkill, I concluded to go. Did so and [then was] called to set a broken fore-arm at Conshohocken on my way home. Got home at six, with the heart beating away at the rate of 160 per minute. Took supper and just as I rose from it, it went off, and I was well.

July 11: Tuesday.

Rec'd. letters from Wendell Phillips Garrison, son of the great William Lloyd Garrison, in relation to his wife's illness. She wrote to me about it last week. She seems to have Epilepsy. She is desirous to have my opinion on her case.

July 15: Saturday.

Noon. Have been busy in good practice and much writing since last entry. Last evening, while over with my neighbor Dr. Hassler, to aid Dr. Hodge to extract a small bullet from his thigh, and which he failed to get, I was sent for to see Dr. Snyder who had just called to see me & get me to meet him in a case today at 2 ½ P.M., near Fort Washington.

This morning I rec'd. a letter from Hon. David Wills of Gettysburg, Pa. Brother William met him a short time since at Harrisburg, when Mr. Wills consulted him about his sick child. Wm. was convinced that it was suffering for want of food and promised to get me to send him my "Food for Infants." The letter was a reply, after having read it.

Evening. Have returned from Snyder's operation. Did it very well. Dr. Newberry was with me & Snyder.

Amos Corson's dgt. pd. their bill \$54.00

July 16: Sunday.

Evening. I have practiced till noon, took two hours sleep, took wife to Sp. Mill on her way to Elias Cleaver's funeral in Philad., wrote or rather finished my report of 49 pages to State Medical Society. Wrote a letter to Dr. Bunnell, one to son Joseph, one to sister-in-law Hannah Bacon, &c., &c.

July 17: Monday.

Practiced in forenoon, went to Philad. at 2 ½ P.[M.], home in 6 P. train. Brought "Mother" (wife) with me. New suit clothes \$18.00.

Men cut our Oats today. Practiced since I came home, fearfully hot.

July 21: Friday.

Morning. Weather has been intensely hot for a whole month, up in the nineties every day. Had a light shower last night and the air is fresh this morning.

July 29: Saturday.

9 o'clock [P.M.]. I am having many patients now, all good to pay too, which is satisfactory. I have not lost a single one of the many children who have been ill with Summer Complaint this present month.

Mr. Chester Smith & wife spent this evening here with us. Richard is here, and Frannie has been sick since.

I sent an article to the Newtown Enterprise two days ago in relation to Wm. H. Johnson's death and life. If I get a copy, will paste it in here.

"Mother" & self have arranged to start to Plattsburg [h] on next Wednesday at 11 A.M. Take the Boat of the "People's Line," at 6 P., &c.

Had palpitation of an hour last Thursday.

August 2: Wednesday.

8 A.M. At 10 o'clock expect to leave home for Plattsburg [h], N. Y., to see Joseph & family. Will leave West Philad. (one thirty five P.M.).

Have been very busy for two weeks, to bed very late now for three nights, indeed out two of the nights nearly all night, & consultation with Dr. Wean last evening till last night, until 9 ½, and then visited a patient, & did not get home till eleven. I suppose I will have palpitation some time today most likely, certainly before I get to Plattsburg [sic], but I cannot help it, so must take it as it comes.

August 3: Thursday.

Wednesday left home at 9 A., Spring Mill, at 10, Philad., at 1:30 P. got to N. York, at 4 P. left on the large Steam-Boat, St. John, Pier 41, at 6 came to the wharf at Albany at 4 A.M. on Thursday. Left Albany by Rail Road at 8:20, passed through Saratoga & other small towns, and arrived at Ft. Ticonderoga about noon. Staid about an hour, and then passed up the Lake Champlain, on the Steamer "Vermont" to Plattsburgh, where we arrived at sunset.

Joseph came on board, the moment the boat touched the wharf, and we were soon in a two horse barouche, whirling towards "The Barracks," which are about a mile from the "Town." Ada & her Aunt Lucy seemed very glad to see us, and had a nice supper in readiness for us. I was pretty tired, and no wonder when we remember that I had been up so much for the three nights previous to starting.

We had a very pleasant time at Plattsburgh, and I left for home on Monday at 10:40 P.M., August 7<sup>th</sup>.

August 8: Tuesday.

Reached home at 3 P.M. Attended a premature labor at 5 P.M.

August 12: Saturday.

Got up with a horrible cold this morning. Took 1/8 gr. Morph. to allay the disposition to cough. Practiced all the forenoon. At noon took a rest of an hour after dinner, then took ½ oz. "Aperient," followed in an hour by 4 grs. Calomel. At 6 P.M. began to purge me. Had [a] headache and flushed face. Took ½ a Seidlitz<sup>clxxxiv</sup> at 6 P.M. to help the medicine do it well. Am very horse. I hope I shall be better tomorrow, though I think it probable tonight will be a troubled one.

Frannie & her little Bertha, and Bertha with her Frannie, Thomas & Bertha all went in the Phaeton to our neighbor Dr. Burnett & Dr. Hassler and their wives, at Albertson's place, at Albertson's place, at 4 P.M. Were home at 5 P.[M.]. Mary went to Spring Mill for Frannie's husband, Richard Day. And here they come, at 6 ¼ P.

I write a letter every morning to wife.

August 13: Sunday.

Much better this morning. Am greatly better. Practiced a good deal.

August 15: Tuesday.

Just returned from Mary Adamson's. She is nearly as well as usual. Met there her grand-daughter Sarah Pennypacker. Her daughter-in-law Sallie Adamson, wife of

Thomas, who is Consul at Melbourne, Australia, and her two sons, Joseph & Charles, 17 & 19 years old, who with their mother have come on to complete their education at some University. I am to write to Prof. Stillé for an "annual announcement." I did not start to Adamson's today till afternoon. Left Norristown at 2:07.

August 18: Friday.

Got awake last night & found I had just been struck by palpitation. Suppose that awakened me. I laid still and it went off before I got awake again. I had dropped asleep quickly.

Had quite a time yesterday with a child of 22 months poisoned by eating stramonium. It is well this morning. Will record the case.

August 20: Sunday.

6 A.M. Yesterday was the first day on which persons were admitted to the great Centennial Exposition for 25 cts. My hired man, his wife & her sister went off early and staid till night. There were more there than ever before.

Next Saturday it is to be the same price.

It is very pleasant this morning, 73°, and the ground quite wet. The grass, which has been brown and scorched for weeks, now looks green & bright, and I have a hope we shall yet have plenty of pasture.

I practiced a good deal last week. Had two very interesting cases. One child 22 months old poisoned by eating Gypsum [sic] weed, the other, nearly 4 years, with a crushed frontal bone over [the] right eye, from a Kick by a horse. Both will recover.

Bertha & Frannie & all their children have been here all the week. Richard Day has been up several nights. Wife is still at Plattsburgh with Joseph and his family. I have written every day to her.

I have cleaned off my office table and arranged things generally, divided the pamphlets and medical journals into groups, so that I can lay my hand on any one that I want. On opposite page have pasted my obituary of my friend Wm. H. Johnson. His family and friends profess to be greatly pleased with it.

August 25: Friday.

Have written to wife every day. She is still at Plattsburgh. I have practiced a good deal every day. Am having the School-Houses fixed & cleaned.

Had a long ride with Dr. Haskell over Schuylkill to see some land which I got of my nephew E. M. Corson two years ago, but which I have never seen. Could not find the man at home, who knows where it is.

August 31: Thursday.

6 P.M. "Mother," as we all call her, has just come from Plattsburgh, came up with Follen, to Sp. Mill and there Mary met them with the Grey & the big carriage and brought her up. To me she looks pretty well sun-burned and tired, but we are so glad to have her home again that we are all agog. We feel as if there was a helm to our home again, some thing to steady it and keep it on course. Joseph & Ada & Aunt Lucy will miss her greatly.



September 2: Saturday.

“Mother’s” sister, “Aunt Susan Foulke,” came today to stay a few days. She is the only unmarried Sister, and boards at Mr. Picot’s back of Germantown.

Got a letter from Frannie yesterday. She regards her visit of a few weeks with us as a very happy affair.

Got a letter from Joseph today. Feels lonely, he says, since Mother came away.

Practicing. John plowing. Carpenter putting new roof on ice-house. Mary & the two Misses Lury [are] out riding in the Phaeton.

Have an invitation to the great Medical International Medical entertainment to be given to the members of the International Medical Congress, next Tuesday night at St. George’s Hall, Arch & 13<sup>th</sup> Sts., Philad.

September 9: Saturday.

Did not get to the Banquet. The International Congress met last Monday, a large Delegation. I was not a Delegate, because in the American Medical Association I was called on to name the Delegate from our Congressional district and was too modest to name myself, so named Wm. Savery, our then President [Montgomery County Medical Society], although he was a poor Representation. I would have named Dr. Wm. Corson, my brother, only that I had just named him for Delegate, State Delegate, to the Am. Med. Assoc. of next year.

I have attended two meetings of the Med. Congress held in University of Pa.

September 17: Sunday.

Very stormy. I went out very little in the forenoon. The attendance at the Centennial Exposition has been very great the past two weeks; several days 100,000 or more, and every day more than 50,000.

September 27: Wednesday.

Have been to Lansdale on R. Rail from Norristown at Junction with N. Pa. road, to a Medical Meeting of our Society & Bucks Co. people. As it was the day preceding the great Pennsylvania Day at the Centennial Exposition, there were very few there. I however presented my views in favor of the Cottage System of hospitals or accommodations for the insane poor, in opposition to the large Hospital system. I am desirous to get up a sentiment in favor of the cottage system so that we may get the Legislature to enact a law allowing such a one to be built. I am the first to move in it in this State so far as I know. I shall address a select audience on the subject at Conshohocken very soon, by request of a Society there. I am practicing a good deal

The Centennial Exposition attended by hundreds of thousands almost daily. For the past two weeks the “Centennial,” as it is called, has been visited by crowds beyond belief almost. On the New York day there were above 105,000 present, who paid. There are of employers, &c., who do not pay, about 10,000. Several States have had days, on which the Governors had visited their people, and they have poured in in overwhelming numbers.

I have been four times since it opened. Wife has been about as often. Mary has been 8 or more times and Follen perhaps 15 times. All our other children have been

frequently. I can give no description of its extent and grandeur, of the wonderful variety of objects, of the immense crowds who wander through the various buildings.

Every State almost has a beautiful house for the reception of its people, and the exhibition of some of its industries or products. Besides the exhibit which it makes in the great buildings of the Centennial Commission, the main building is just 1/3 of a mile in length by ----- in breadth.

Philadelphia is filled with people from the world at large. The numerous hotels, many of them of immense size, are filled to overflowing. Germantown & Norristown and all the City from end to end and from side to side is alive with boarders. People come from all quarters, take boarding and go every day for a week or two weeks and pore over the vast collections of products of Nature & art. I expect to go often now & during October.

Tomorrow will be Pennsylvania Day. The Governor, Hartranft, a former resident of Norristown, the man who as a Colonel took Joseph & others of the boys to the War in the very first week of the Rebellion, issued his proclamation, making the 28<sup>th</sup> a Holiday, and inviting the people of the State to visit on that day. The State will move from end to end today, tonight & tomorrow. I fear to go in so great a crowd, and will therefore stay at home till the great press will be over.

September 28: Thursday.

Pennsylvania Day at the Exposition.

September 29: Friday.

Yesterday was the great day of the Season. Two hundred & fifty one thousand paid at the gates. Perhaps as many as 15 or 20 thousand did not pay, officials, &c., &c. Follen, Susan & her husband, Frannie & her husband, &c., none went from here. We were afraid of the great crowd. It was an immense jam for hours at the various depots from 8 P.M. till midnight before they could all be gotten away. The fire works were on the largest scale, and of great variety. So large a crowd of people were not ever gotten together before, I presume, in so small a space.

Dr. Carr of St. Clair, Schuylkill County, came up to see [me] on the 27<sup>th</sup> and as he failed to see me then, he came again today. He was desirous to thank me for my paper on the Aperient Solution in last year's Transactions of the State Society. He says it is the finest thing, rather, I should say the best medicine for the uses recommended by me, he has ever known. Dr. Carr has operated 45 times for stones, by cutting operation, and with only two deaths, and they were from their own imprudence.

October 1: Sunday.

Rec'd. a letter from Mrs. Lucy McKim Garrison, asking me to come and see them and thanking me for my counsel in her case. She was [the] daughter of Mr. Miller McKim, the anti-slavery worker, and her husband is Wendell Garrison, son of the great Wm. Lloyd Garrison, an anti-slavery leader.

Wife is busy writing letters to Joseph & Ada. Jay & Susan were here from noon till 8 P.M. Jay & self went since tea to Dr. Hassler's and to Mr. Chester L. Smith's. Follen is at Mr. Lukens, Mary in the city. So we are quite quiet tonight.

October 3: Tuesday.

Yesterday I had two cases of midwifery that occupied me all night, and I got home at breakfast time, 7 A.M., very weary. But as I had very ill patients, I was compelled to going, so started at 8 & went to Conshohocken to see a girl ill with Typhoid Fever, then down to Lafayette below Sp. Mill, on my way to George Klauder's whose wife has the Fever, also. At Lafayette, John Streeper stopped me to ask me to have something done at the Public School House,, and while he talked, I was struck with palpitation. I said nothing, went on to see Mrs. Klauder & drove, or Mike drove speedily homeward. The palpitation cont'd. till 5 P.M., when I got up & went to Chester L. Smith's to see his son. Returned, took supper & laid myself down on the sofa. It then went off in a few minutes. I feel pretty well now.

October 6: Friday.

10 P.M. Have been well and busy all day. Practiced a good deal, and have been called to a case of terrible burn on a child 2 ½ years old, since dark.

Last Monday I was at the Centennial all day, about 70 thousand there and yet I met but five that I knew. Was by myself all day. Had a letter from Joseph yesterday.

October 29: Sunday.

Since last writing, I have been very busy, have officially visited the Jail and made Report to the Board of Public Charities. Have also visited the Alms House and examined it thoroughly. Have practiced a good deal and had much correspondence, besides reading up the journals.

A week ago, or a little more, Joseph & wife & child, and Judge Carter, his father-in-law & his daughter Lulu came here and have been visiting the Centennial Exposition almost every day since. On Friday evening, Joseph's wife & her father & sister staid at Richard Day's. Professor Leidy & wife & old Mr. Day also spent the evening there. Last evening Judge Carter and daughter took tea & staid all night at Prof. Leidy's. Today they came up on the 10 A.M., and Bertha & her little Bertha came along. James Yocom came after dinner. About 2 P.M. Judge C. & myself went to Norristown, stopped at Tacie's and got home to tea. Here we found Dr. Ellwood Corson & wife, two Misses Yocom, Miss Gilbert, daughter Susan Lukens & her husband Jaywood Lukens, all of whom went away before tea. After tea my nephew Samuel Corson & sister Helen (the Artist) came & spent the evening. James & Bertha left for home after tea.

Judge Carter & Lulu, myself & Mary expect to go to the Centennial tomorrow.

October 31: Tuesday.

Yesterday, Judge Carter, his daughter Lulu (short for Lucy), Mary & myself were all day at the Exposition. There were nearly 100,000 persons there, though it was not a "big" day. We had great difficulty to get on the train at 4 ½ P.M., the throng was so great there from 3 P.M. till six P.[M.] that it was only by great struggling that persons could get on any of the Cars until near 6. P. We had a pleasant day of it, a good dinner in the restaurant of the main building, &c. Joseph attended to the practice for me, attended Mrs. Brooks with twins & some sick patients.

This morning I took Judge Carter, his daughter, Joseph & his wife & child, little Mary, to the Conshohocken depot and at 10 A.M. they left for N. York. Joseph & wife

expect to leave N. Y. at 6 P.M. and to arrive at Plattsburgh this morning at 6 A.M. So we would have been all alone once more, only that "Aunt Harriet Foulke," as the children say, came up this evening. We were glad to see her. She has been spending a short time in the City & has made some a few visits to the Exposition

[November 1: Wednesday].

At one o'clock this afternoon, wife & Aunt Harriet went to the City. The latter staid in the City and wife came home with Follen at 5:30 P.M.

Dr. Maulsby spent a short time with me after they left and afterwards, I sat nearly two hours for Helen to work on my portrait which she is painting for me.

November 3: Friday.

Rec'd. a letter from Joseph this morning, says they, after leaving me at 10 A.M. at Consho., stopped at N. York Junction [and] in 15 minutes took Cars for N. York, dined at Windsor House with Judge C., took Plattsburgh Cars at 6 P., arrived at Plattsburgh at 6 A.M. next morning, were in their own house at 7 A. all well, &c.

November 7: Tuesday.

Yesterday Leni Streeper and myself spent at the Exposition, examining the exhibits from the schools of the States. Also the minerals. To those two things we devoted all our time.

This is election day. There is an earnest contest, between the two parties for the Electors. I have a hope that we, the republicans, shall succeed in electing ours.

I am greatly engaged, in leisure hours, in stirring up the physicians of Philad. and the adjoining Counties, in which the hospital is to be built, to have it on the cottage-plan, as there is an almost universal ignorance of the plan and its workings prevailing. I have to furnish the information and that is a great labor and some expense. I have many letters to write and mail, and where I write to elicit opinions from men conversant with the whole subject, I enclose postage stamps.

Oct. 5, palpitation from 9 A.M. to 8 P.M.

Oct. 15, " from 12 noon till 2 ½ P.M.

November 10: Friday.

Today the Centennial closed. Yesterday Mary & her Mother were there. They took with them also our chamber-maid, Mary Henderson. It was greatly crowded, 175,000 people. Follen was their at the closing today. The President & other notables were in attendance. We have quite a description in tonight's papers. I went to Pennlyn [Penllyn] this morning to superintend some repairs there. Practiced this afternoon. Mother & Mary took tea at Mr. Fritz' this evening. I have read steadily since dark, several important subjects. Put up papers & pamphlets for Joseph, wrote letters, &c.

November 30: Thursday.

Thanksgiving Day. Since last writing, I have been a good deal engaged, indeed, I might say almost every minute from 5 ½ A.M. until 10 P.M., with practice, correspondence, reading journals, overseeing repairs at Pennlyn [sic], my own farming, &c. I am specially engaged in getting public sentiment in favor of the cottage plan, for

our coming hospital, for the Counties of Lehigh, Northampton, Bucks, Montgomery, Chester, Delaware, and Philad. Our State under the guidance of Dr. Curwen, of the Asylum for the Insane Poor of the State, at Harrisburgh [sic], has built three large, massive, prison-like structures at an expense of almost one million dollars each, and to hold 300 to 500 Chronic Insane generally. Now on the cottage plan, we can accommodate twice the number at the same, or less expense, treat them more efficiently, and have them more comfortable. I am leading off in the matter, indeed I am the only person who thus far has moved in the attempt to deviate from the plan recommended by the "American Assoc. of Superintendents of Insane Asylums." It of course is indispensable to success that I secure the assent and co-operation of the Medical Societies, of the several counties, and also of the "Board of Public Charities" of the State, as well as prominent members of the Senate & Legislature. This is a big work.

I have rec'd. much encouragement from very many to whom I have written. All the societies will bring it before the members. The Board of Public Charities has spoken most encouragingly and promised me their aid, by letter from their President, & from Mr. Frank Wells, Editor of the Evening Bulletin. I have published a long article, in relation to the superiority of the new plan, which has met with much commendation.

Palpitation, 15 hours, on 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>. On the 20<sup>th</sup>, I was taken at 9 P. and it lasted all night and till noon on 21<sup>st</sup>, nearly 15 hours, but during all the forenoon on 21<sup>st</sup>, I attended to practice. Soon after I reached home and laid myself down, it went off. It does not seem that just lying still is of much importance. I had lain all night & even slept pretty well and yet it cont'd. to [illeg.] away.

Have written to Joseph & had letters from him. Have had a great many letters from people.

Today I have been to Philad. to [the] Orthopedic Hospital with a patient, Wm. Pennington, 21 years of age, who has been unable almost to walk for more than two years, on account of tenderness on the bottom of the heels.

December 11: Monday.

[On] Sunday had palpitation in morning, about ½ hour, while out in practice. Went off in half an hour.

December 13: Wednesday.

Have practiced all the week, have been sitting for my portrait every afternoon.

December 14: Thursday.

Chas. Follen Corson married Dec. 14, 1876.

Today at 12 ½ o'clock, our son Charles Follen Corson was married to Mary Lukens, daughter of Lewis A. Lukens and Mary his wife who was daughter of James Wood, dec'd., her mother being a sister to Samuel Thomas, an old friend who resided for a long time in Plymouth Township. They were married by Friend's Ceremony, in the presence of nearly fifty persons, mostly near relatives.

After the ceremony, we held an abundant dinner. Our girls and their husbands were all there. Uncle Dr. Wm Corson & Jesse Foulke, Robt. R. Corson & wife, Ed. Wistar & wife, Hon. John Goforth, Judge Wm. Yerkes, three Misses Cresson, the Lukens

& Wood families, &c., &c., Max Adler & wife, &c., Dr. Anna Lukens, Helen Corson & Ida, and their brother Dr. Ellwood & wife, &c., &c.

At 2 ½ they took the Cars for New York, with the intention to go to Plattsburgh, & stay a few days with Joseph & family. We had a very pleasant time and got home by 5 P.M. I then had to go to see Charles Stork, beyond the Broad-axe tavern, about 4 miles. Got back by 6 ½ P.M.. Feel pretty tired.

December 15: Friday.

Pretty cold. Practiced all day moderately. Went to see brother Alan W. Corson and spent an hour with him. He is now in his 89<sup>th</sup> year.

December 19: Tuesday.

Bertha, my daughter, has sent me a little poem or prayer, very beautiful it is and I will paste it here. Had a letter from Follen today from Plattsburgh, where he & his wife Mary Lukens have been since Saturday morning last. Also rec'd. a letter today from Lawyer Wm. A. Coursen of Elizabeth, N. Jersey, in relation to his ancestors of whom he really knows almost nothing. He spells his name Coursen, while in Weiss' History, or the appendix of it, he writes the name of the Huguenots Corsen, and the early records, or those of 100 years ago, lawyer Coursen says spell it Coursen, and the present inhabitants of Staten Island, and all N. Jersey and ourselves spell it Corson. I have no doubt the name in France was spelled Coursen, and that the English pronunciation of the name gave rise to the present mode of spelling it Corson.

Have written a long letter to Joseph this evening, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>, and am engaged in tracing the various Dickinson families from the oldest Ancestor of whom we have knowledge, my Gt., Gt. Gd. Father Wm. Dickinson. See Biography of our family as compiled by me.

## 1877

January 8: Monday.

Since last writing, I have written a great many letters, and rec'd. a great many from various persons. Have also written a long article for the Republican Newspaper, "The Herald and Free Press" in Norristown, against the building of Asylums for the insane on the present expensive, "Congregation" or close hospital system. It was published last Saturday, and has been spoken of as greatly interesting. Have also sent two articles to "Hatboro Spirit." One was verses (poor enough) on "the boy of all work," which name I also gave as the author.

"Aunt Harriet Foulke," as the children call her, came here last Friday, to spend some weeks with us. We have had fine sleighing for the past 10 days, and much riding I have had in my practice and going to other places.

January 18: Thursday.

Bertha & the children and Frannie came up today. John brought them from Spring Mill in the small sleigh, intended to hold only two persons. They were a jolly

looking load, John standing up to drive. They went home at 4 ½ P.M. I took them to Spring Mill to take the Cars.

Palpitation from P.M. yesterday until midnight.

I have just sent off my 4<sup>th</sup> communication to the Herald & Free Press on the Asylum subject. William spent the evening here. He says the Governor told him yesterday, while at his home, that he had been reading my articles and had begun to conclude that the subject ought to be well investigated. Wished that I would continue my writing.

January 31: Wednesday.

I have had a great correspondence for the past many weeks and have published five articles on the reform in State Asylums. Reforms which I wish for our coming one.

Spent last Sunday with Mayor Phillip R. Freas, my school-mate and since friend. Had a very pleasant, entertaining time.

Wrote an article on Vaccination for [the] "Germantown Telegraph."

February 1: Thursday.

Since writing the above, I have had three letters from Governor Hartranft, telling me that he had sent my name to the Senate, for confirmation, to be a "Trustee of the State Lunatic Asylum at Harrisburgh", notifying me of that confirmation, and finally that he had sent the Commission. In them too he very cordially invited Mrs. Corson & myself to his reception this evening and to make his house our home while in Harrisburgh. Dr. Curwen has also written me a pressing letter to come up & examine the Asylum.

Bertha's children have S. Fever. I have been to the City three days of this week in the afternoons to see Bertha's children, who have Scarlet Fever. Frannie, Thomas & Bertha have it slightly though.

We are having a pleasant time with "Aunt Harriet Foulke" here.

Susan and her husband Jaywood Lukens started to go to Washington, to spend a few days with his uncle, Hon. Alan Wood, M.C. They will also call to see my niece Ida Corson, brother George Corson's daughter, who is now living with her Uncle Dr. Geo. Maulsby, Surgeon in the Navy, now retired and with ample means living in Washington.

February 25: Sunday.

Had a palpitation from 4 P.M. yesterday until 3 A.M. today. Did not tell anyone, and continued to read & write until 10 P.M. At 1 A.M. took half a gr. Morph. At 3 it left me, but I scarcely slept a wink all night.

Aunt Harriet Foulke as the children call her has been with us about 6 weeks, and very pleasant it has been to have her. Our daughter Mary has been in Philad. during the time, or most of it. She came home one week when Bertha's children had S. Fever. I attended the children. All four were sick.

Bertha Yocom, 3 years old, has been with us two weeks. She is a very charming child. Is a real pleasure to us.

I have written seven articles on Insane Asylums for the purpose to prevent the Commissioners from building the one for this District on the massive many-storied plan. I think I shall succeed. Last week, Dr. Thomas G. Morton, one of the Com., sent for me to come to his house in Philad. to show me a plan which he has drawn. It is composed of

a number of detached buildings, with spacious lawns and exercising grounds, and small work-shops, &c. In all covering 20 acres of land. I met Dr. Kirkbride there, who was very cordial, and prepared me earnestly to come & examine his Asylum.

Season has been very healthy. I have practiced every day, with good patients.

March 6: Tuesday.

I went to Philad. to see Hannah Adamson, away out at 919 Cumberland St., Kensington. Found her greatly better than two weeks ago., downstairs & pretty well. Also went to a small street between 23 & 24<sup>th</sup> and Coates & Brown, to see Ephraim Jones' wife, found her living in great poverty in Bucknells St. Is far advanced in consumption. Went to see Frannie & Bertha and their families. As I returned in the 5 P.M. train, was taken with palpitation half way from Philad., but came on said nothing about it, till 10 P.M. It went off at 4 A.M.

March 7: Wednesday.

Practiced all day. Wrote much in the evening. Pamphlets & journals crowd on me so rapidly that I can scarcely get them read. Wrote two articles for the Newspaper this week, one signed Humanitas, on the unfairness of the Intestate Laws in relation to women. The other signed P.D. on the necessity to appoint or elect good men to the offices of Prison & Alms House managers. I have written & rec'd. numerous letters.

March 24: Saturday.

It is now more than 2 weeks since I last wrote in this book. In that time I have written and rec'd. a great many letters, have rec'd. also numerous journals, pamphlets, Essays, &c., &c. Have practiced a good deal, &c. Have been twice to Philad. Have sat several times for my portrait, have had one palpitation of about an hour. Have succeeded nearly, I think, in getting Doctor Daniel Brower elected Superintendent to the Warren Asylum, or rather I have the promise of two votes out of three. I am having much correspondence in relation to the asylum.

Last I rec'd. from the Commissioners \$40 for the seven visits to [the] Alms House & Norristown as one of the Court Committee. There is much of suffering among the poor, now for want of work. [They] are getting poorer & poorer. Mind & body both suffer. Many persons suffer on before applying for relief, through shame, a feeling that none of their family was ever on the County.

Aunt Harriet went home more than a week ago, and our daughter Mary returned from the City.

I have rec'd. this notice of the death of Mrs. [D. W.] Hand in a St. Paul paper, sent to me by Dr. Hand. I staid with them by their request a very short time some years ago while on a visit to St. Paul & Minneapolis. I had a very severe palpitation of the heart while there. Mrs. H. was an interesting looking person, and I believe a very fine woman. A Virginian with whom Dr. H. became acquainted while in the Army, She was a widow with one child, widow of a Rebel officer, I think, when he married her.

April 14: Saturday.

Two days since, I met the Committee, or rather the Trustees of the State Asylum for the Insane Poor at Harrisburgh [sic], at the Asylum in that place. I left home on



Wednesday, at 3 o'clock P.M., took the Cars at Bridgeport at 4 P.M., and arrived at Harrisburgh at 8 ½. There I met Professor Traill Green, M.D. of Easton, also a trustee. On Thursday morning, 12<sup>th</sup>, we took a seat in the Asylum Carriage and were driven around the Governor's house, as I wished to make a call on him. He was not at home, but Mrs. Hartranft came down to see me. I staid but a few minutes and on leaving, she requested that my wife & myself would spend some time with them when we shall come to the meeting of the State Medical Society in June. She is the daughter of a second cousin of mine, Mrs. Ann Sebring, daughter of Capt. Daniel Davis, whose wife was the daughter of Mary Marple, Née Corson, sister to my grandfather Benjamin Corson.

We then went to the Asylum at 9 o'clock, and went through all the building. There were 434 patients, the sexes being nearly equal in numbers. At 11, the Board organized, at two we dined and at 3 ¼ having finished our business, we left the asylum, took the train at 3:56, and after a pleasant ride to Reading, where we arrived at about 6 P.M., we parted, he [Graill Green] to go to Easton, and I for home. At 8:30 I was at Norristown and after a brief stay with brother Wm., he sent me home in his carriage. Arrived safely and found all well. Yesterday the 13<sup>th</sup>, I practiced. Today, 14<sup>th</sup>, in a few minutes after a hearty breakfast, I was taken with palpitation. After lying down half an hour, I got up & went to business as usual.

April 25: Wednesday.

I saw a few patients early, then went to the Insane Asylum in West Philad., generally called "Kirkbrides Asylum." Had a very pleasant day. Met the "Commissioners to build the New Hospital" there. Had a pleasant lunch with them and got home by six o'clock.

April 29: Sunday.

At home all day, save to visit one patient. Was greatly engaged last week in practice, and in visits to Asylum, to and old sick friend in Philad., by rig to Penllyn to have work done in preparing the house for Summer Boarders, and in beautifying the yard, &c., &c., and at home in having potatoes, early corn, peas, beans, &c., planted. Have written a few letters to get the true statement in relation to the amt. of water in Wissahickon Creek in dry summers. Got one letter from Jesse Foulke and one from Dr. James Tyson, both of whom hence long resided there. Sent the letters to the Governor, as he is to decide on the site selected by the Commissioners. My letters were not favorable to its being considered a fit place.

May 13: Sunday.

Since the above was written, I have practiced a good deal, had a great deal of correspondence by writing and have visited the insane Asylum at West Philad., where I met the Commissioners. By the way, this was just before last writing.

Last Monday I was called to see Isaac Garretson, whom I found quite melancholic, really insane. Have had a good deal of trouble with him. Will send him to the asylum.

May 14: Monday.

Sent Isaac Garretson to the insane asylum at Harrisburgh this morning.

Yesterday heard that Mrs. Lucy McKim Garrison, with whom I have been corresponding, is dead. She was buried today at Orange, N. Jersey. She resided at a beautiful place in Llewellyn Park in West Orange. She was a lovely woman, very talented, wrote much for the Nation. Her husband Wendell Phillips Garrison is one of the Editors.

May 23: Wednesday.

Attended the N. J. Med. Soc. till noon, then examined the Geological & Mineralogical Collections in the State House, till 4 P.M., then left for N. Hope. Had my daughter Mary with me. Took tea at Richard C. Foulke, M.D. Was tired and went to bed early.

May 24: Thursday.

Visited cousin Joshua Corson & Mr. Vasant, Dick's father-in-law, withdrew.

May 27: Sunday.

I did not go to Mrs. Garrison's funeral, but my nephew Dr. E. M. Corson did. He was a school-mate of hers. I expected to pay her a visit on the 24<sup>th</sup>, after the meeting of N. Jersey State Medical Society in Trenton. But as she was suddenly cut off, before that time, I did not go on to the funeral.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> (last week), I went to the Med. Society meeting, reached Trenton at noon, took dinner with Dr. Thos. J. Corson and at once started with him & Drs. Riddle and Wharton to the State Asylum, about 3 miles from the City. There for four hours I was on my feet, examining the institution and grounds, returned & took tea with Dr Wharton, then to the meeting at 7 ½, adjourned at 9 P. Then talked at Dr. Corson until 1 ½ [A.M.]. Very tired.

June 1: Friday.

We have had an uncommonly dry hot time for some time, several weeks indeed. Farmers, and I am one of them, of course begin to growl amazingly, "there will be no hay, no pasture, no potatoes. We will have to haul water," &c., &c.

June 7: Thursday.

We have had splendid rains now for two days, and we farmers are growling again: "The wheat is knocked down; the corn will be drowned out. We are going to have a bad hay-making time," &c., &c. Never satisfied.

We have indeed cause for rejoicing that this fine rain has come. It has done everything good. The poor people who have no land and no growing crops have of reason, no great benefit of it, like the farmers, but still they are benefited by good crops.

**Editor's Note:** At this point in Diary Book VI are placed and pasted the obituary and letters from or about Lucy McKim, wife of Wendell Phillips Garrison, who was born October 30, 1842 and died May 11, 1877.

June 13: Wednesday.

Joseph came in today while we were at dinner. Though we had been expecting that he would come this week, we still were surprised to see him step in, looking so

bright and happy. We had expected he would come up in the evening.

The Medical Society of the State meets at Harrisburgh this afternoon, and for once in several years, I shall not be there, but I have sent a "Preamble & Resolutions" in relation to the appointment of a Committee to report next year on the propriety of having female Superintendents for female departments of insane asylums. Drs. Nebinger, Stetler, Wood and Sibbett<sup>clxxxv</sup> have agreed to present them. I have told them they need take no great trouble to press their adoption as I merely wish to make announcement of them so as to open the subject. Dr. Curwen and other male superintendents will doubtless be provoked to scorn the matter, but never mind, I will bring it about yet, probably.

June 15: Friday.

Evening. I see by the "Bulletin" that the preamble and resolutions spoken of above have been passed by the Medical Society today. So I suppose I will be made Chairman of the Committee.

June 16: Saturday.

I see by the papers that the Committee are Hiram Corson, Andrew Nebinger & Sibbett. So, as I am Chairman, I shall have the making of the Report on my hands.

June 17: Sunday.

Today, for several hours, [I had] palpitation.

June 19: Tuesday.

Joseph left here for Plattsburgh this morning. I took him to the 7 ½ train at Conshohocken. It has proved to be fearfully hot today. We are alone again, mother, Mary and self.

June 22: Friday.

Hiram Roberts took me to the Alms House. Dr. Knipe was there also. Things are pretty fair.

June 23: Saturday.

At 6 P.M. was taken with palpitations at George Key's house. I had a hard day yesterday in going to [the] Alms House, &c., and had practiced all day, so it might have been weariness. It lasted only about an hour.

July 4: Wednesday.

This day one week ago there was a great re-union of the various parts of "the Society of the Army of the Potomac," at Providence, R.I., of which Governor Hartranft was the President. At that meeting Bayard Taylor, our Chester Co. poet, read a poem entitled "Soldiers of Peace," which I will paste in here

There is a great "Temperance Movement" on hand now, all over the Country; it was originated by Francis Murphy, an Englishman in England. He is now here and "Murphy Meetings" are held everywhere. My nephew Richard R. Corson took the

pledge a few days before the “re-union,” and as he is a member, he went on there, and though his wife went along, we feared he would fall by the way, but he did not. He returned all right. That was a heavy trial, to withstand his army comrades entirely to join in the flowing bowl. And now this 4<sup>th</sup> of July, 1877 is a good time for me to renew my efforts and increase or animate my devotion to just principles and right action, for “it is only noble to be good.”

July 7: Saturday.

10 o'clock [evening]. Jay & Susan, Follen & Mary, Richard Day & Frannie and her child, Bertha, here this evening. Those from Conshohocken have gone. Richard & Frannie & little Bertha are still here & will stay a few days.

We have been having our grain taken in, but I have taken but little trouble with it. I have though done much practice, considering that it is the healthy time of year.

They are very desirous in Norristown to have me make a temperance speech tomorrow at [the] Music Hall, and so I have promised to do something at it for 20 minutes or so.

July 8: Saturday.

I met a jammed house at Norristown. Music Hall was packed to hear me on Temperance. I do not know that I gave them much new light but I held them in strict attention for a time.

July 19: Thursday.

Had a palpitation from 11 ½ A.M. to 3 ½ P.M. Taken it at Saml. Roberts, rode home, laid down, got asleep and finally wakened up well.

July 26: Thursday.

Last Sunday, Thomas Adamson, my nephew, son of my sister Mary, came here to see me at 11 A.M. We had a very pleasant time. He was quite interesting in his conversation describing affairs in Australia. He is Counsel General of a portion of that Continent, as it is now sometimes termed.

This morning I was up early (5 o'clock), got breakfast and before seven visited a city child, &c., &c. Then went to Consho[hocken] to see some patients. On my return by Spring Mill got palpitation. As it did not suit me to lie by, I cont'd. to ride & practice till noon. Just as I got out of the carriage at home at ¼ after 12, it went off.

August 2: Thursday.

Practiced till noon, got palpitation while prescribing for the last patient before dinner-time just at noon; took dinner, then went to bed, slept some and at 3 P.[M.] it went off. Then practiced till evening and felt pretty well. The girls & their children are enjoying themselves here greatly.

The Great Rail Road Strike at Pittsburgh in 1877.

It began on July [empty space] at Pittsburgh in this State. The authorities there soon found themselves unable to do anything with the mob of “Strikers,” and sympathizers, and called on the Gov. for aid. The Governor was on his way, with a few friends whom he had invited, to San Francisco. My brother Wm. and the wife of my

Nephew Dr. Lewis W. Read and her two children 13 & 15 years old were along. They had nearly reached Salt Lake City when the telegram came to the Gov. of the entire stoppage of trade on the great Rail Road of the State. He turned back from Salt Lake and sped home at the rate of 40 miles per hour, and arrived in Philad. Wednesday the 25<sup>th</sup>. The party went on to San Francisco. In the meantime troops were sent from Philad. They found an awful mob at Pittsburgh and were soon set on by them. The company was a mere handful in front of the thousands of rioters who had stopped all trains for two days. At last a combat became necessary. The military fired on the crowd, and a good many were killed & wounded. The military were driven into the R. R. company's "Round House" where their locomotives are stored. The mob then set fire to outside cars and ran them down on the building to fire it and 88 locomotives & 240 freight cars were burned. The military company escaped from the house in the night and got across the Allegheny River to a secure place. The mob then became frantic. The excitement spread throughout the State, and all along the great railroads in any Rail Road Center, the strikers stopped trains. At Reading a conflict took place. The military fired on the mob and killed a number. It has now spread over all the roads East of the Mississippi River and those in Missouri, which are in the Northern States as far East as New York, but they are prepared for them better.

August 5: Sunday.

The military are being sent to all points needing protection. There is a fearful time in the coal regions, where miners are in great mobs, especially in Scranton & Wilkesbarre [sic]. They are preventing the pumps from running & of course the weather will soon flood the mines, so as to do immense damage. But Gov. Hartranft is dropping the military companies down among them, as is also Genl. Hancock sending "the Regulars."

August 12: Sunday.

The strikers are subdued, but a considerable number of men are kept in the coal regions. Indeed it is believed that a garrison for U. S. Soldiers will be established at Wilkesbarre [Wilkes-Barre]. And why not? They may better be kept there than at their old Southern forts.

I had been steadily engaged at posting all the afternoon when at 5 P.[M.] I was attacked by palpitation. I cont'd. till supper-time & then till dark. Went to bed at 8 P.[M.] after taking 27 drops Tinct. Digitalis. It cont'd. and at one A.M. in [the night] took ½ gr. morph[ine]. [It] went off at 4 A.M. Up early next morning and practiced all day. Felt pretty well.

On Friday Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup> wife went to Philad. to start at 1 ½ P.M. to N. York. I went with her to the Cars at West Philad., and then Follen, our son, went with her to N. York and at the Grand Depot got her a Pullman Car for Plattsburgh. She left the City at 6 P.[M.] and next morning at 5:40 was at Plattsburgh, where Joseph met her and soon had her at the Barracks. I have had several letters since (now Aug. 12) and have written every day to her.

Twice last week I was up to see my sister Mary Adamson. On Wednesday I felt since she was going down, so went on Thursday and then she did not recognize me. She

died Thursday night and is to be buried tomorrow, Monday, Aug. 13 at 2 P.M. at Friends burying ground, Schuylkill, Chester County, one mile S. E. from Phoenixville.

August 13: Monday.

Evening. This morning at 9 ½ I took Bertha Yocom, Frannie Day and Mary Corson, our youngest daughter in the large carriage with two horses and drove up to the funeral. We arrived there at 12 noon [and] were among the first arrivals. About 1 P.M. William Cresson & Tacie, Jaywood Lukens & Susan, James Yocom, Richard Day, our son Chas. Follen Corson, Wm. Scholl & Clara, Sarah Jones and her daughters & Joseph Jones, brother Alan W. Corson (in his 90<sup>th</sup> year), his son E. Corson & Hannah Adamson, Jonathan Adamson's dgt., and the only living one of her children as far as I know, came. These were soon followed by James Ritchie & wife, Dr. William Corson & Mrs. Jean Read & Hannah Corson (brother Joseph D. Corson's daughter), so that before the time appointed for the meeting at the Meeting House, nearly all the Corson relatives were there. At 2 P.M. the coffin was closed and we moved in procession to the Meeting House where it was again opened, and the house was filled to its utmost capacity by her friends and neighbors. After a short time of stillness, so deep as to be almost painful, Mrs. Lydia Hillis, formerly Miss Lydia S. Stephens of Norristown rose and spoke of the deceased in most beautiful terms. She said that when quite young, she was attracted to her by her loving, gentle, winning nature and had always cont'd. to love her through a long period. She was to her a model. It was a sincere and loving tribute to a loved and worthy friend. She was soon followed by Miss Grace Anna Lewis, one of sister Mary's friends of whom she had often spoken to me in terms of great admiration. Miss Lewis, now a woman of perhaps 55 years, took the same course as Mrs. Hillis, but being a woman of even higher culture than Mrs. Hillis she pronounced an Eulogy which every one felt was the utterance of a grieved and loving heart. It was indeed a beautiful tribute to one long her friend and of whom she said in her closing remarks, that "she was the truest, best specimen of noble womanhood she had ever known." There were many others there who never bound to her by chords of love.

It was a gratification to us all that her son Thomas & his wife and two sons, who have been absent for many years in Melbourne, Australia, could be with her in her last days on Earth, but it was also cause of deep regret that Sarah Dolley, her daughter, was kept from her death and her funeral by the illness, or affected illness of her only child, Charles Sumner Dolley, now 21 years of age and already married and living with his mother in Rochester, N. York. Mary's oldest daughter is the wife of Elijah F. Pennypacker, and they have resided near to her for many years. They have a number of daughters and 3 sons, all of whom as well as their parents have been a source of great comfort to her, from, or by their attention and loving kindness.

Of my father & mother's children who grew to adult age, four, viz., Mary, Sarah, Joseph D. & George have passed away. Alan now in his 90<sup>th</sup> year, Charles in his 76<sup>th</sup>, myself in my 73<sup>rd</sup> and Wm. who a week ago today entered his 72<sup>nd</sup> birth day, still remain, but our advanced ages show that we stand on the very edge of the grave. In a few years the generation to which we belong will have passed away forever.

I was sorry that my wife was so far away, on a visit to our son Joseph, that she could not be at the funeral. She was very fond of Mary.

August 25: Saturday.

I have been pretty steadily engaged in business since the funeral. Have written to wife every day. It has become quite a pleasant occupation from the time of getting up, till breakfast

Today at 2 ½ o'clock while standing in the yard seeing Billy Kane gear my horse, I was struck so violently with palpitation that I got quite giddy, but I soon got over that and rode to Isaac Garretson's to let his wife know that her husband would be home from the asylum this evening and some one must meet him at Norristown. Then came home and went to bed. It was fearfully hot and I was deluged with perspiration. So at 4 P.[M.] I got up and put up some medicine and now at 5 P.[M.] am writing this with the heart still beating away 160 times in a minute.

A few minutes ago while I was posting my books, I began to sneeze, and I am generally in the habit of continuing 8 or 10 times rapidly, so while going on with it, I felt that the heart had ceased its palpitation, and sure enough when I ceased to sneeze, I found I was well.

August 30: Thursday.

Wife desires to come home from Plattsburgh. Wife has now been at Plattsburgh with Joseph's family about 4 weeks and is anxious to come home, but is somewhat timid about coming alone. So I have concluded to go for her tomorrow & have telegraphed her to that effect. I am desirous to go and come as early as possible for Follen's wife is not well and expects to be confined in about 40 days from now.

August 31: Friday.

After seeing a few patients, I left Sp. Mill at 11:30 for Philad. and at 1:30 P.M. left West Philad. Depot of Pa. Rail Road in the Limited Express for N. York. In less than two hours and a half was there and another half hour in a Coach landed me at the Union Depot. At 6 P.[M.] I was on my way in a Sleeping Car direct for Plattsburgh.

September 1: Saturday.

At 6 A.M. I was up and dressed and on the platform of the hind-car [and] was waving a response to the handkerchiefs which were waved by wife & Ada on the Piazza of their house at the "Barracks." In a few minutes more Joseph & I were riding homeward through the streets of Plattsburgh. A mile brought us to Barracks, and here I found little Mary, Mother and Ada all delighted to see me, especially the latter two, who were somewhat worried that Joseph would be compelled to leave them at 11 o'clock to report at Wilkesbarre [sic], Pa. where troops are stationed to keep in check the turbulent spirit of the miners & rioters. He had rec'd. a telegram from Genl. Cuyler only a few hours before my arrival, and though it said "only Temporary Duty," it was unpleasant to leave for his little daughter was poorly with dysentery, and I had come to see them. But this latter fact was very consoling to him, in so far as he could have her in my care for a few days. At 11 A.M. he took the Cars & was off. It rained in the afternoon. It has been very rainy every day nearly for a month. It is now cold & disagreeable.

September 2: Sunday.

We took a short ride, taking Ada & Mary along, but the rain drove us home pretty

speedily. In the evening we took tea at Mrs. Col. Livingston's.

September 3: Monday.

I took Joseph's horse & carriage and calling on Revd. W. Hall, took him with me over to Cumberland Head, a point of land about 6 miles from Plattsburgh, which juts far into the Lake Champlain. We had a very pleasant ride, and I was greatly entertained by the information given me in revolutionary matters pertaining to that locality by my companion.

Little Mary has steadily improved and we concluded to leave next morning. I intended to go on Monday morning, but on that morning Mother did not like to go and leave Ada alone with the sick child, so I staid.

September 4: Tuesday.

At 7 o'clock we were on board the "Vermont" Steamboat, floating away for Ticonderoga, which place, after stopping at several points, we reached at noon. After a delay of about an hour and a good dinner, we were in cars again to pass over five miles to the head of "Lake George." Here we took a steamboat and had a charming ride of 36 miles to Caldwell at the foot of the Lake. The scenery on this lake is surpassingly grand. It is not excelled by that of any known lake. There we "took" a four horse coach and had a pleasant ride of nine miles over the hills to Glens Falls.

At Glens Falls the train was waiting for us and we were hurried on to the main road at Fort Edward and then a ride of nearly fifty miles, & passing through Saratoga & many other towns, we reached Albany at 8:30 P.M. A few steps took us to the river steamer John Drew. It was a splendid boat. We got a good room and, but for an obstruction of the channel by canal-boats aground, would soon have been away. The obstruction was not removed until nearly midnight. In the meantime we had a good supper and retired to bed. At day-light next morning we were passing West Point and at ¼ of 10 A.M. came in the wharf. At 10:35, we took the Express for Philad. and at 1 P.M. were at "Germantown Junction," and in an hour at Sp. Mill. The carriage driver by Bertha was soon there & we at home in a quarter of an hour more. Here we learned that several persons had sent for me during my absence, one of whom was Follen.

On Saturday last, Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>, after I had been gone a day, Mary, C. F. Corson's wife([our son's]), was taken in the night with bleeding from the nose. As I was away, Dr. David Beaver was called. Dr. Beaver cont'd to attend to her until Tuesday when Dr. Ellwood Corson saw her. I did not see her until Wednesday evening, (Sept. 5). She was then on her back in bed, and had been so for days. They represented to me that she had lost but little blood. She herself was very heavy & sleepy from a large dose of Laudanum given per rectum by Dr. Beaver. How much morph[ine] she had had before I know not, but a good deal I presume. She told me that she thought she had bled not more than two tablespoonsful. I wanted to know why she did not sit up, as she complains of being so tired lying in bed. Why she said, if she sat up her nose would begin to bleed. I told her that if that were so, she must be bleeding when on her back, but the blood passed down her throat, and asked her if it was so. She thought not. But I was not satisfied & told her to sit up & try it. From some cause, those about her did not wish her to do it then, but said they would have her raised up after awhile. I wished her to sit up until bed-time so that she could be rested and sleep better. I understood since



that she was up till bedtime (I paused here to enquire and find that she did not sit up, that she was not able, so I incline to think she had bled slowly & steadily perhaps all the time they thought she was not bleeding, or else the heavy doses of Laud[anum] had stupefied & weakened her).

The night was likely to be dark & rainy, and I told Follen if anything threatening occurred to send for Dr. Beaver who lived within a square, and then for me if necessary.

September 6: Thursday.

At 2 [A.] M. I was called up by Dr. Beaver's man and [asked] to come at once to Follen's. I found her in labor, and before 5 A.M., or about that time, she gave birth to a female child, weak, but living. She was a good deal exhausted but seemed to recruit pretty well. The child lived till afternoon. She seemed pretty fair at 9 A.M. when I left. I saw Dr. Beaver about 10, and he told me he had left 1 gr. of morph[ine] in sol., [a] teaspoonful to be given every 2 hours if in pain. After I got home, I began to have fear of the morph[ine] and, though I had told him that I did not think any necessary, I sent a note to Follen to not give any. Before that reached them, they had given 3 teaspoonsful. I saw her in the evening. She was pretty heavy but she said nothing of any bleeding backwards from the nose, but now as in the early part of the day, the pulse was up at 144 per minute. It seemed to be the only bad symptom, but she cont'd. steadily on her back, and as I had had a case a few months in a first confinement [in which] the same kind of pulse prevailed for several days, I hoped by next morning there would be a favorable change. At 2 at night I was again sent for and found her with a pulse of 104, easily counted, but she had an hour or more before had a spell in which they thought she was dying. They had given some brandy and milk. I staid with her, gave brandy occasionally, &c. Two or three times she told me that her breasts hurt her, pained her, &c. I said, it is not in the breast proper, is it? She said, "yes, they are sore."

September 7: Friday.

About 5 o'clock Friday morning, she was desirous to rise, but feared to elevate her head and for relief turned her on her side. When in a few minutes I turned her back, I saw blood on her sleeve and on speaking of it, one of the women said it was done when she was on her side. If that was so, it must have come from her nose, and if so, it is probable it was bleeding through the night and was every moment exhausting her without our suspecting it. I had kept a close watch on the wasting from the uterus. Shortly after turning her on the back, she was desirous to make water. There was some delay in getting a proper instrument and though it was but a few minutes, she was so impatient, that a Shovil bed-pan was slipped under her. In a few minutes it was removed and a considerable show of blood, or what looked like blood, appeared in the bed-pan. The nurse said, "she was wasting rapidly." I did not believe it, but as Mary said she did not make water, I concluded to look at it. I found it quite fluid, and very dark like blood which does not coagulate. I could not detect a ruinous smell upon it, so put it into a 2 oz. vial & brought it home [and] sent part of it to Dr. Ellwood, & he was to send some to Dr. James Tyson to determine its character.

In a few minutes after turning on the back, she lost power to open her mouth, became oblivious to calls of her name, and died without a moan or struggle in a few moments. Did she die of hemorrhage from the nose, the blood passing silently, and by

her unobserved, into the stomach? It is a melancholy occurrence. She was one of the best of daughters, wives & mothers. She was one of the most amiable women I have ever known.

The analysis by myself of part of the two ounce contents from the Chamber, proves to me that it was bloody urine. There was a copious flocculant precipitate by nitric acid, & when the supernatant fluid became quite clear, the ruinous smell was very appreciated.

Dr. Tyson wrote to me today (Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>) that it was a mixture of blood with urine. So no doubt, she had had that kind of urine for some time. As she had spoken of it to her sisters-in-law, and her sister-in-law Annie Lukens told me that night that the fluid which I had in the vial and which the nurse called blood, "was exactly like her urine the night before she was taken sick at all."

After a continuous fatigue & anxiety from the time of getting home from my journey to Plattsburgh, I was taken with palpitation today after dinner. I cont'd. up a good deal of the time till bed-time then took some Morph. & went to bed. Fell asleep near midnight & when I was awakened at 2 A.M. by a call to go to Harry Comforts, I found the palpitation had gone off, and I felt pretty well. It was fearfully dark & raining violently, but as he had a carriage for me, I went with him, taking a lantern along to light us. He brought me home before daylight. I cont'd. my practice that day all right, &c.

September 13: Thursday.

I was doing a good deal of riding, was exceedingly sad on account of our great loss. [I] had been turning the case over & over in my mind hundreds of times, had lain awake a good deal at night, but yet was well and had an excellent appetite when, just before dinner on the 13<sup>th</sup> I was taken with palpitation. I had just gotten uneasy that day about some judgments & mortgages which I paid off a year or two ago, which were against Wm.'s house, and I was uncertain if they had been "satisfied" properly. So I went, poorly as I was, to [the] Bank, to the Court Offices, &c., & made thorough examinations to satisfy myself. Then [I] went to S. Roberts' at Spring-Town to see his cancer of the face. Got home in the evening. Took some Morph., 1/2 gr. & went to bed. Went off about 2 A.M. on Friday.

September 14: Friday.

Got up at usual time, 6 A.M., and was busy all day and very sad for the loss of dear Mary and in deep sympathy for Follen who is disconsolate, whose beautiful, perfect home is now desolate.

September 26: Tuesday [Wednesday].

Have not had palpitation now since last record[ed] and have felt pretty well. Practiced every day and read a good deal. There has been Court now for several weeks, a trial of Wahlen,<sup>clxxxvi</sup> a young man, for the murder of a companion near Elm Street in "Centennial Times." [It] has now been on 14 days and closed with the Judge's charge today. The Jury are out. It is stranger than fiction.

September 27: Thursday.

From 4 P.M. on 27<sup>th</sup> for half an hour [I had] a threatening, irregularity of heart,

worse than palpitation. I took some stimulant and morph. & it went off.

Follen has left his house and at the earnest, urgent request of Mr. Lukens & his wife has gone to their house to stay during the winter or part of it.

Grace Anna Lewis has written "In Memoria: A Beautiful Old Age," on the death of Sister Mary Adamson. Save that she drags some of the rest of us in too prominently, it is very truthful and beautiful. Mary was a lovely woman, one in ten thousand.

October 1: Monday.

Things have been going on as usual. I have a good many patients. We have our grain in & corn off, and yard, or lawn all nicely mowed. It looks very nice, green & smooth.

October 3: Wednesday.

Yesterday at 4 P.M., I was taken with palpitation while riding. I visited two patients before I came home. In about an hour I took  $\frac{1}{2}$  gr. morph. and afterwards felt pretty comfortable though I had to be up till nine P.M., riding with Dr. Shrawder<sup>clxxxvii</sup> to do some visits. He did not know that any thing ailed me. It went off at midnight. I have been in the habit of not taking the morph. for many hours, but would at last be compelled to use it, so as to be comfortable, and then it would generally go off in an hour or two. So this time I concluded to take it early. Though it cont'd. 8 hours, I was very much more comfortable than at other times, and it did not last so long.

Have had several letters from Joseph lately. He is concerned about little Mary. The bowel complaint does not get entirely well. At last account [she] was better. It is in no danger I think.

I have had a good many letters almost every day from various correspondents.

October 5: Friday.

Yesterday was the Centennial of the "Battle of Germantown," and a great parade & speech giving was the order of the day. But as the storm began before noon & waxed fierce before 2 P.M., it is likely the proceedings were a failure.

October 8: Monday.

The Spiritualist Bliss & a woman called Mrs. Bliss have been on trial several days for conspiracy to defraud persons by pretending to "Materialize Spirits." The persons whom they had inveigled into their service to aid them betrayed them and exposed all the affair, showed their arrangements in the cellar, their trap-door, their masks and dresses, &c., &c. And yet, after all this exposure, my friend Jonathan Roberts, son of the U.S. Senator of Pa. many years ago, still believes in them, sits by them in the court room, goes security for them in a suit for Bigamy (instituted against them since the trial began, by reason of the Commonwealth discovery that she was not the legal wife).

I am sorry to say that one of the jurors in the Bliss case is a scoundrel and said that "though he believed Bliss guilty, he should never be sent to the Penitentiary by his vote." So though there were 11 for conviction, the jury had to be discharged for being unable to agree. The Judge in discharging them said, "no guiltier man ever passed free from a court-room."

I am seventy-three years old today. Except [for] the Palpitation of Heart which occasionally occurs, I am in excellent health and doing a pretty large practice.

October 9: Tuesday.

10 P.M. I was taken with palpitation at 10 ½ A.M. Have practiced ever since, save two hours at noon, and it is still on me.

October 10: Wednesday.

8 A.M. The palpation went off at midnight. This is a splendid morning. I have been up since six. Sister-in-law Susan Foulke came here yesterday & is still here. We have had many letters from Joseph & others within a few days. Little Mary, Joseph's daughter is now well. A letter from Dr. Curwen tells me the Board of Trustees will have their annual meeting at the Hospital at Harrisburgh on 23<sup>rd</sup>. Hope I shall be able to go.

There is a critical time in France just now. McMahon<sup>clxxxviii</sup>, the President of the Republic, elected to serve till 1880, is really doing all he can against the Republic. Thiers, on whom the Republicans looked as leader, died two weeks since and Gambetta, the great republican leader, after being prosecuted for libelous speeches, has issued his "Manifesto." Next Sunday will be election day, when the Republicans expect to return a majority of the members.

October 18: Thursday.

Charles Stockton, our old neighbor, came today with his gd. son to spend the day. His wife who before his marriage was our neighbor & friend was buried a few weeks since. We have had a pleasant day, for Bertha & three of her children, & Frannie & her one child Bertha Day were all here. Young Frank Stockton, 20 years of age, is a very pleasant youth. Mr. Stockton & myself walked out to see all the crops, &c. He used to delight in farming. At 4 P.M. we took them all to Spring Mill to take the Cars for home. We are gathering apples. The man & boy are at it daily.

Last Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> [in] France, an election was held for Representatives, and it appears the Republicans have elected 344, a majority over all the factions of about 130. McMahon, the present President is in a fix. Last summer he dismissed his Liberal Cabinet & took a new conservative one. Now they will expect him to return & select a Cabinet from the Republicans, and he does not intend to do it. Having been elected to serve till 1880, he intends to hold on.

October 24: Wednesday.

10 P.M. Have just returned from Harrisburgh. I left home yesterday at 3 P.M., was at Lochiel House in Harrisburgh at 8 ½ P.M. Robt. Lamberton, Attorney at Law, one of the Board of Trustees of the State Lunatic Hospital, came in to see me by previous appointment, and we discussed the subjects of the hospital until 11 P.M. Next morning at 8, I called on my friend Boyd Hamilton & his son Dr. H. At 9 called on Governor Hartranft in his room at the Capitol, and afterwards on George Lear, the Attorney General, who was years ago one of our Temperance Lecturers in Bucks Co. At 11 A.M. in company with Dr. John Atlee, who then just arrived in the Cars from Lancaster, went in the carriage sent from the Hospital for us, to the Hospital about 2 miles distant. The Board was already assembled, and we went at once to business, dined at 2 P.[M.] and at 3:53 I was again in the Cars with my friend Prof. Dr. Traill Green of Easton, one of our

board, on our way to Reading. At Reading I parted from Dr. Green after a pleasant ride & conversation of two hours, and made my way home.

I suggested a few reforms to the Board and not having time to consider them, the President adjourned the meeting till the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in November.

On Sunday evening at 8 o'clock (Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>), I was taken with palpitation. I said nothing to the family about it. I sat up till 10 P.[M.] then went to bed & had it the whole night. It went off at 8 ½ on Monday [22<sup>nd</sup>], and as I had slept but little all night & expected to leave for Harrisburgh at 3 P.[M.], I was fearful I could not do it. But I practiced till 11 A.M., then went to bed until 2 P.[M.] and then started and got along well as recorded above. It is not every man who would have gone after such an attack.

October 28: Sunday.

I have just been as busy as a man could be since my return from Harrisburgh, in practice, and today after some practice took daughter Mary up to brother Charles Corson's. I found him very poorly. He is now in his 77<sup>th</sup> year, I think. He is almost wholly confined to bed, though he talks cheerfully and a great deal. I could scarcely get in a word edgewise, as people say. We left there before 4 P.[M.] and got home in 2 hours.

Follen and his mother went in the afternoon to the cemetery to see Mary's grave. We were all home in good time and have spent the evening in social conversation.

November 1: Thursday.

Since last writing, I have been very busy. Have attended 3 cases of midwifery, have had E. H. Corson, Saml. Roberts, Mary Corson, Miss Lukens, Mrs. Daniels and Mrs. Andrews very ill, also a child with diphtheria and other minor cases.

The Teachers Convention is in progress at Norristown. I have attended only once, an hour or so. Would like to be there at every session.

November 2: Friday.

At 5 P.M. in Conshohocken was struck by the palpitation, but I went on to Frank Lukens, then home & said nothing about it till bed-time. It cont'd. all night & till 9 o'clock this morning. Since that time I have practiced all day and now at 9 P.[M.] feel very well, but have had too much practice to do.

November 4: Sunday.

E. H. Corson's illness. Since last writing I have been very busy. My nephew Elias H. Corson has been very ill. I have had brother Wm. & Ellwood both to see him, but they do not see him so ill as I do. I have great fear that he will die from empyema. I believe his inflam[mation] of the knee joint, "arthritis of knee," has resulted in suppuration. If so, he will die or have a long & exhaustive sickness. Died Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> [in] A.M.

I am now taking 15 drops Tinct. Digitalis and fifteen drops Tinct. of Iron twice daily to prevent my palpitations.

I have had a letter from Joseph George giving me some new matter from "Radnor Monthly Meeting records, in relation to my mother's family, the Dickinson's who came over about 1680, & the descendants who lived at Plymouth for more than a century.

November 16: Friday.

Was feeling very well today. Did a great deal of practice & attended to affairs when at 5 P.M. I was taken with palpitation.

November 17: Saturday.

The palpitation went off at 2 A.M. and now at bed-time, 10 P.M., I feel as well as usual after a very fair day's work and an evening's reading. I have taken medicine but for a few days, so will continue it in the hope that it will prolong my well intervals.

December 7: Friday.

Just after dinner was taken [with palpitation], laid down. In a few minutes it ceased for only about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a minute, then before I rose, began. In about [a] half hour was called to rise, did so, and it went off. Then [I] walked out and it came on, but went off in half an hour.

**Editor's note:** At this point in the diary are pasted newspaper clippings, including obituaries of Elias Hicks Corson, J. G. Whittier's poem *King Solomon and the Ants*, and a long write-up in *The Philadelphia Weekly Times*, Saturday, December 15, 1877, about the celebration of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Burlington. One clipping reports that a Insane Hospital commission meeting was held in Philadelphia. During that meeting "the commissioners passed a resolution authorizing the committee on Plans and Buildings to invite several prominent hospital superintendents to examine and criticize the plan about to be adopted, and to give the benefit of their experience. The gentlemen invited are Doctor Nicholls, of the Government Asylum at Washington; Doctor Reed, of the Dixmont Hospital, of Pennsylvania; and Doctor Chapin, of the Willard Asylum at Seneca Lake, N.Y. To these will be added Doctor Hiram Corson, of this county, who has given great attention to the plan of erecting an asylum upon the system of detached or separate buildings for different classes of patients." On the page this clipping is pasted, Dr. Hiram Corson writes the following:

"I have recently, as well as weeks and months ago, sent newspapers reports, &c. to the Building Committee showing them what is doing in Scotland, England, Ireland and on the Continent in the building of more appropriate & cheaper hospitals, adapted to employment of the Chronic Insane, as well as to the improved management and treatment of the insane of all kinds. They have therefore invited me to confer with them and the Superintendents of Hospitals for the Insane in relation to the proper plan of our proposed hospital. If this has been done in good faith, it is a complement to me, and some reward, or at least a recognition of my labor, and though I feel that I cannot give a proper plan, I can refer them to the general ideas suggested by Drs. Wilbur of Syracuse Hospital, Dr. Hallack of Worcester and Dr. Pliny Earle of Northampton, and Dr. Chapin of Willard Hospital, N. York, all of whom have sent me many reports which I have sent to the Commission. In common with these men, I oppose the plans of the Association of Am. Superintendents of Insane Asylums, and ask that cheaper buildings, fitted for employing the inmates be gotten up".

December 12: Wednesday.

Wife, self were in Philad. today to get clothes for me & some things for Mary to make things for the children [and] gd. children for Christmas. It was a beautiful day and the people were out by thousands, and the stores were gay & beautiful. Follen came up with us and we have all been reading and writing the whole evening. It is now 10 P.M., so we will retire.

December 15: Saturday.

Since last writing I have been quite busy practicing, reading & writing, &c. At sunrise this morning Follen and myself were at Conshohocken, he on his way to the train for Philad. and I to get my letters from the P.O. I rec'd. several letters, one from Dr. Morton inviting me to meet the Committee at noon, at the office of the Architect, 410 Walnut St., but first to come to his house at 10 ½ to go to Pa. Hospital and hear him lecture. I was there at the time and also at the Hospital with him when he lectured, and at noon, met the Committee, also Dr. Nicholls, superintendent of the Insane Hospital at Washington City, Dr. Chapin of Willard Asylum N.Y., Gov. Hartranft, Joseph Patterson, president of the Commission, &c., &c. For several hours they went over the plan of buildings, to see if it was all right, the rooms & store houses & halls, well adapted to their uses, &c. I got home by six and a half P.M., after which I rode a good many miles in practice.

December 20: Thursday.

This morning I got another invitation to come at noon to the Architects office. Had to ride around rapidly, so as to get ready to take the 11 ¼ A.M., which wife & myself did. Took the Car on our arrival in Philad. down to Frannie's, took a cup of tea, then went to the meeting. Two new experts present, Dr. Read [sic] of Dixmont Hospital and Dr. Richardson of Blockly [Blockley] Hospital. After examination again of the plan for about 2 hours, an opportunity was afforded me for a presentation of my views on the "reforms" in the management of the Insane. I presented as well as I could the views of the Alienists of England & this Country, especially of Dr. Wilbur, who has furnished me with numerous reprints, &c. But the special point with me was to get them to change two of the houses, make them with the lower floor in only one or two large rooms for day rooms and the story above for large dormitories. Whether they will do it or not is uncertain. I have written an account of my visit for the "Herald and Free Press," but only sent it to the printer yesterday.

Within a week my old friend & late patient Samuel Roberts, long ill with cancer, and Mrs. Smith, long ill with Consumption under my care, and Geo. Hocker, a neighbor, friend & oft times patient, have all died within one week. They were all what the world calls common people, but they were all most excellent people in their spheres, and all well endowed mentally, and were among our "most respected citizens." I become greatly attached to people who have long relied on me for advice in sickness. George Hocker was on the trial of Mose Sutton for murder for 9 days. They brought in a verdict of acquittal after dark. He at once took the Cars for Sp. Mill, then walked 1 ¼ miles

home, took supper, talked till 10 P. [M.] with his family, went to bed & was dead in a few minutes. I was sent for, but he was gone.

December 25: Tuesday.

Christmas, 3 P.M. Since last writing have practiced a great deal every day. This morning a lovely one, Mary & self went to the Misses Yocom to see Isabella who has been sick for some weeks under brother Wm.'s care. He requests me to see her. She is poorly, weak and nervous, but will get well. Then we went to Norristown to see Wm. who has not been well for a few days. Took Tacie some apples & other Christmas presents. This morning Follen gave me a massive & beautiful glass inkstand. Mary gave a Necktie. She gave presents to her mother, "Ann", John, &c. Mother (wife) gave presents to John & Billy of good gloves, handkerchiefs, &c. Follen gave John & Billy clothes.

At 4 P.M. I went on a short visit to brother Alan who is now in his 90<sup>th</sup> year. He looks cheerful, healthy, &c. [He] talked very well. Also made a call on Mrs. Emily Corson, so recently made a widow.

Follen has been up to see his wife's grave & has just returned.

The weather has been warm, dry & pleasant, as the pleasant Fall Weather for two weeks.

December 27: Thursday.

8 ½ P.M., at home & no work. I have been to the Alms House today. After one visit of a mile before sunrise, I reached Norristown by 8 ½ A.M. Dr. Knipe, who is also one of the Board of Visitors, kindly took me with him. We got to the Alms House by 11 ½ & at once went to work. We carefully examined the whole institution. There are in the Hospital 21 males & 22 females. In the Insane Asylum [are] 25, nearly all females.

December 29: Saturday.

Friday morning just as I had written the above and when [I was] as well as ever I was in my life, I was stricken with quite severe palpitation and at once ceased to write. It lasted me from 8 ½ A.M. until 10 P.M. But I went out to see some patients, though it was a great effort to do it.

In the basement under the Insane, there were 8 colored males, all adults, and in another room 8 colored females, all adults but one 2 years old. In the Cells under the Hospital, 10 insane; in the big house, 287 males, 19 females, 7 children with the females, 407 in all.

It has been a very mild winter, almost like Indian Summer all this month. Yet on account of the scarcity of work, there is an unusual number of men there, of women but few.

December 30: Sunday.

As the palpitation left me at 10 last night, I felt quite well this morning and so went to see an old Lady (83) at James or rather at Hannah Coulston's. At one P.M. went in the Cars to Philad. to see a patient, John Klauder. Returned in the 3 P.M. train. Had a pleasant conversation with Mr. Thropp going down, but was alone with my thoughts



returning. On getting home found a call to B. Pfleegers. Follen went with me, and we got back in good time for supper. Have spent the evening writing to Mrs. Smith, matron & manager of the Penat. & Reformatory Institution for Girls and Women in Indianapolis, also wrote to Jos. E. Thropp and sent documents.

Canon Farrar, the Episcopal Bishop who preaches in Westminster in two recent Sermons has declared his utter disbelief in a burning Hell, and says if the Commission now getting of a version of the Scriptures do their duty, the words Devil, Hell and Damnation will be excluded. It has been but two weeks since he preached the first sermon, and already we hear of this and that Divine who are hastening to his side. They believed as he does for years but were afraid to speak their convictions. The time is not far off when the present doctrines and the present "Plan of Salvation" will be lost sight of in the brightness of the new & more rational religion that will take their place.

It is not possible to give the present Scientific Education common in all good schools, to girls & boys, without an overthrow, very soon, of the superstitions, with which the aggregate of religious people have been loaded for centuries past.

December 31: Monday.

10 P.M. I have just finished "posting" my books. In two hours now we shall be in another year. I am past 73 years of age and yet for a "Country Practice," mine does well. My income from it alone has been 2,190 Dollars this year, last year 2,903, 1875 \$2,183, 1874 \$2,715, 1873 \$2,422.75, 1872 \$3,917. So even at my advanced age, I have done well. It has been not unpleasant exercise for me, either in body or mind.

The evening is cold & windy, a change from what it has been for a whole month. Now within an hour and a half of the going out of the year 1877, all is still in the neighborhood, save the worshippers at Methodist Meeting at Plymouth. They have just completed their "new church", so as to occupy it, and now they are singing out the old year and watching the coming of the New Year.

If the doctrines of Bishop Farrar spread among the people and are accepted, they will have to modify their preaching and adapt it to the times.

There is nobody in our family now but wife & Mary & self, our domestic Ann White, who has been with us more than 40 years, William Cain our boy, who helps about the house, attends to the fires, &c., &c. and goes to school, and John Hance, our Farmer, who lives in the house near by. The times are so fearfully pinching that there is no "shooting the old year away."

All have gone to bed but myself, and now I may go. The latter part of this year has been a grievous one to us in the death of our dear daughter, wife of Follen, and Elias H. Corson, my nephew, and of several old and valued friends whom I have attended for many years.

In the hope that the coming year may be a comfortable one to others as well as to ourselves, I shall retire to bed. Hiram Corson.

## ENDNOTES

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<sup>i</sup> Dr. Richard D. Corson, Hiram's cousin and preceptor.

<sup>ii</sup> Vanhorn was a fellow medical student and a friend of Hiram Corson.

<sup>iii</sup> Dr. Benjamin Rush of Philadelphia.

<sup>iv</sup> In 1827 a division occurred in the Society of Friends. The liberal separation party's leader was Elias Hicks (1748-1830) and the unofficial name given to the liberal party was "Hicksite." Elias Hicks worked a farm on Long Island between preaching tours. He opposed slavery and in 1811 published his *Observations on Slavery*.

Another noteworthy Quaker preacher was Edward Hicks, born in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Edward Hicks is now remembered primarily as a primitive painter. His fame rests on *The Peaceable Kingdom* of which many versions exist. One of each is to be found at the New York State Historical Association and the Brooklyn Museum.

<sup>v</sup> Dr. William Potts Dewees (1768-1841), *Comprehensive System of Midwifery* (1824).

<sup>vi</sup> John Cleves Symmes Jr. was an infantry captain and hero of the War of 1812. In 1818 he announced his theory that the earth is hollow and contained four additional concentric spheres accessible through vast openings beyond the polar ice. He proposed to lead an expedition to the "warm and rich land, stocked with thrifty vegetables and animals" inside the earth. At the urging of one of his followers, Jeremiah Reynolds, Congress approved the plan in 1828 and the Secretaries of the Treasury and Navy authorized the preparation of three ships for this expedition. President Andrew Jackson, who was newly elected, stopped the project.

<sup>vii</sup> Cholera Morbus was defined as "the true spasmodic and epidemic Cholera" and emphatically termed "the scourge of the East." Its greater severity and much greater intensity of spasms was considered to be the difference between it and "Bilious Cholera."

<sup>viii</sup> Charles Bell (1774-1842), author of "On the nerves; giving an account of some experiments on their structure and function, which led to a new arrangement of the system," *Philos. Trans.*, 111:398,424, 1821.

<sup>ix</sup> Robert Maskell Patterson, professor of natural philosophy, chemistry, and mathematics in the University of Pennsylvania. From 1838 to 1835 he served as professor of the University of Virginia. He was director of the United States Mint from 1835 to 1853.

<sup>x</sup> Nathaniel Chapman, professor of physic and the institute of medicine and author of *Discourses on the Elements of Therapeutics and Materia Medica*, vol. I (1817) and vol. II (1819).

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<sup>xi</sup> John Redman Coxe, professor of materia medica (1818-1835).

<sup>xii</sup> Robert Hare Jr., professor of chemistry.

<sup>xiii</sup> Dr. Samuel Jackson (1787-1872), was named by Dr. Chapman as his assistant in the chair of Theory and Practice of Medicine, Clinical Medicine, and the Institutes of Medicine in the University of Pennsylvania in 1827. From 1835 to 1863 he served as professor of material medica in the University of Pennsylvania.

<sup>xiv</sup> Dr. William E. Horner, adjunct professor of anatomy.

<sup>xv</sup> Dr. Thomas Chalkley James, professor of midwifery in the University of Pennsylvania. He has been regarded as the father of midwifery in this country. When his health began to fail, Dr. William Potts Dewees became adjunct professor of midwifery.

<sup>xvi</sup> Hugh Meredith of Doylestown received his M.D. degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1829.

<sup>xvii</sup> Grizzle is not further identified and at this time it is not determined whether or not “Grizzle” graduated from the University of Pennsylvania.

<sup>xviii</sup> Governor Dewitt Clinton of New York (1769-1828).

<sup>xix</sup> Philip Syng Physick (1768-1837) was professor of surgery in the University of Pennsylvania (1805-1818). A pupil of John Hunter, he is sometimes called the father of American surgery.

<sup>xx</sup> Elaterium is a purgative extracted from the fruit of the squirting cucumber. It was used as a cathartic and diuretic.

<sup>xxi</sup> Frederick Tyrrell (1797-1837), *The Lectures of Sir Astley Cooper on the principles and practice of surgery, with additional notes and cases*, London, 1824-27.

<sup>xxii</sup> Professor James Gregory (1758-1822) of Edinburgh.

<sup>xxiii</sup> Alexander Philip Wilson Philip (1770-1851), Scottish physician and Physiologist.

<sup>xxiv</sup> Laennec, Rene Theophile Hyacinthe, *A treatise on the diseases of the chest: in which they are described according to their anatomical characters, and their diagnosis established by a new principle by means of acoustick instruments*, translated from the French with a preface and notes by John Forbes, 1st Amer. Ed., Philadelphia: Webster, 1823.

<sup>xxv</sup> *Asafetida*, a gum resin obtained from the root of *Ferula fætida* and *F. scordosoma*. Its properties are due to allyl sulphide, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>10</sub>S. It was considered a powerful antispasmodic, stimulant, and expectorant.

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<sup>xxvi</sup> Joseph Watson was elected Mayor in 1824.

<sup>xxvii</sup> Alcohol inhibits antidiuretic hormone activity and thus acts as a diuretic.

<sup>xxviii</sup> Joseph D. Corson, father of Professor Hiram Corson, LL.D. (1828-1911), a Shakespeare scholar and professor at Cornell University from 1870 to 1911.

<sup>xxix</sup> The Liberty Party.

<sup>xxx</sup> James G. Birney of Michigan was nominated August 31, 1843, by the Liberty Party as their presidential candidate.

<sup>xxxi</sup> Thomas Morris of Ohio was the Liberty Party's vice presidential candidate.

<sup>xxxii</sup> Charles Scudamore's clinical treatise on gout (1816).

<sup>xxxiii</sup> Peter A. Brown, Esq., of Philadelphia lectured on geology in the court house in Norristown on several occasions.

<sup>xxxiv</sup> Benjamin Silliman (1779-1864), chemist, geologist and physicist, founder and editor of the *American Journal of Science and Arts* and one of the founders of the medical school at Yale University.

<sup>xxxv</sup> Dr. Jacob Green, physicist and professor of chemistry in the Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia.

<sup>xxxvi</sup> J. Coster, M.D., *The Practice of Medicine, According to the Principles of the Physiological Doctrine, Translated from the French*, Philadelphia: Carey & Lea, 1831.

<sup>xxxvii</sup> Doctor Hiram Corson was the fifth president (1852) of the Pennsylvania Medical Society.

<sup>xxxviii</sup> Daniel Webster, because he backed the Compromise of 1850, was reviled by all the antislavery groups and members of his Whig party. His death was due to intestinal obstruction thought to have been secondary to bowel cancer. At the time of his death he was attended by Doctors Jeffries and J. M. Warren of Boston.

<sup>xxxix</sup> An alkaline percolate from wood ashes.

<sup>xl</sup> C. C. Burleigh, the abolitionist.

<sup>xli</sup> Governor William Bigler of Pennsylvania.

<sup>xlii</sup> William Stroud of Norristown.

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<sup>xliii</sup> William Lloyd Garrison (1805-1879), American abolitionist and publisher of the paper *The Liberator* and an advocate of immediate and complete abolition of slavery. He was president of the American Anti-Slavery Society from 1843 to 1865.

<sup>xliv</sup> Washington Light Atlee (1808-1878) of Philadelphia. He and his brother John Light Atlee (1799-1855) of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, were eminent pioneers in the operation of ovariectomy. John Atlee performed the procedure for the first time in 1843. Dr. Ephraim McDowell (1771-1830) performed his first ovariectomy in December, 1809, on a Mrs. Crawford, age 47 years, who survived to live to the age of seventy-eight.

<sup>xlvi</sup> Governor James Pollock of Pennsylvania.

<sup>xlvii</sup> Charles C. Schiefferdecker, M.D., of Willow Grove, formerly of Philadelphia. In the summer of 1848, he established his Hydropathic Institute just northeast of the Village of Willow Grove. Hydropathy is the system of treatment which claims to cure all diseases by the application or use of water, the so-called water cure. Courthouse records do not show the purchase of the spring or the Spring Mill Tavern by a Dr. Schiefferdecker or Schiefferdecker.

<sup>xlviii</sup> The Black Sea port of Yevpatoriya, annexed by Russia along with the rest of the Crimea in 1783. It was occupied by British, French and Turkish troops in 1854.

<sup>xlix</sup> Passmore Williamson was a delegate from Philadelphia to the first national convention of the Republican Party held in Philadelphia's Musical Fund Hall at which John C. Fremont was nominated for President of the United States.

<sup>li</sup> Preston Smith Brooks (1819-1857), U.S. Congressman from South Carolina (1852-1857), avenged his uncle, Senator Andrew Pickens Butler, who had been bitterly criticized and slandered in a speech by Charles Sumner. Sumner, an active, aggressive abolitionist and Senator from Massachusetts, made Butler the victim of his vituperation when Butler was not in the Senate to defend himself. It took Sumner over three years to recover, but he was re-elected and resumed his seat in the Senate in December, 1859. Brooks resigned and was promptly re-elected. The episode was a manifestation of the growing tensions between the North and the South.

<sup>li</sup> This is a reference to the difficulties which followed the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 which contradicted the provisions of the Missouri Compromise under which slavery would have been barred from the territories. An amendment to the Act repealing the Missouri Compromise enraged the antislavery forces.

<sup>li</sup> A compound ether spirit developed by Friedrich Hoffman (1660-1742), the first professor of medicine on the faculty of medicine at Halle, Germany.

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<sup>lii</sup> Bright's disease refers to nephritis with proteinuria and edema as essential features. The acute nature of the case mentioned by Corson was likely that of a suppurative nephritis following a bacterial infection. Lewis Lukens, Jr. most likely died of post-streptococcal glomerulonephritis.

<sup>liii</sup> Encke's Comet, named for the German astronomer Johann Franz Encke who calculated its orbit, determined that its recurrence was 3.3 years and accurately predicted the date of its return. The comet was first discovered by J. L. Pons in 1818.

<sup>liv</sup> The Society was the Cabinet of Natural Science of Montgomery County, formed in 1830. From the newspaper, the Norristown Herald and Free Press, February 14, 1838, we learn the following: "Through the meritorious exertions of 'The Cabinet of Natural Science' of this place, scientific lectures are being held weekly in this Borough which are well attended by the citizens of Norristown and vicinity. On Friday evening last Dr. Hiram Corson delivered a Lecture on Electricity to a large audience, and acquitted himself very honorably."

<sup>lv</sup> Frederick Townsend Ward (1831-1862), American adventurer hired by the Chinese authorities to quell the Taiping Rebellion. He arrived in Shanghai in 1859.

<sup>lvi</sup> Andrew G. Curtin was elected Governor of Pennsylvania by a majority of 32,164 in a total of 492,642, defeating the Democratic candidate, Henry D. Foster.

<sup>lvii</sup> The Constitution Union party, which was established by the remnants of the Whig and American parties when they convened in Baltimore on May 9, 1860. They nominated John Bell (Tenn.) for President and Edward Everett (Mass.) for Vice President.

<sup>lviii</sup> Senator Stephen Arnold Douglas (1813-1861) of Illinois. He headed the Democratic Ticket in the 1860 national election. His running mate was Herschel Vesparian Johnson (1812-1880).

<sup>lix</sup> Charles E. Lex was elected Philadelphia City Solicitor in 1860.

<sup>lx</sup> Lieutenant Adam J. Slemmer. He successfully defended Fort Pickens with a small force of regular U.S. artillery until reinforcement arrived.

<sup>lxi</sup> Lt. Gen. Winfield Scott (1786-1866) had a long and distinguished military career. He became supreme commander of the U.S. Army in 1841. After the disastrous first battle of Bull Run, in poor health and old, he was compelled to retire on November 1, 1861.

<sup>lxii</sup> John Buchanan Floyd (1807-1863) was U.S. Secretary of War (1857-1860). After he resigned his post, he became a Confederate brigadier general. Following his defeat at Fort Donelson, Jefferson Davis relieved him of his command.

<sup>lxiii</sup> Jeddo is now Tokyo.

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lxiv. The First Presbyterian Church in Norristown, so called because it was painted brown.

lxv. Prime Street ran between Tidmarsh and Washington to the U.S. Arsenal on the Schuylkill River. The arsenal no longer exists.

lxvi. General William Selby Harney (1800-1889), who had his headquarters in St. Louis. He was Commander of the Department of the West.

lxvii. General Benjamin Franklin Butler (1818-1893), commanded the Massachusetts Militia and was one of the first to reach Washington. He restored order in secessionist Baltimore and was given command at Fort Monroe.

lxviii. Colonel Elmer Ellsworth. He once was an apprentice lawyer in Lincoln's law office and close friend of the Lincoln family. At the young age of 24 years he was Captain of the dashing New York Fire Zouaves.

lxix. Senator Louis T. Wigfall of Texas.

lxx. Col. Corcoran, later promoted to Brigadier General, was a prisoner of the South when he was selected, by a drawing, as the hostage for W.W. Smith, the Confederate privateer who had been convicted of piracy in Philadelphia.

lxxi. Manassas in Northern Virginia was a key railroad junction during the Civil War and the battles of Bull Run were fought in the nearby farm area.

lxxii. Big Bethel, about 6 miles northwest of Fort Monroe.

lxxiii. Major Theodore Winthrop.

lxxiv. Captain George Amey of Company E, Fourth Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers.

lxxv. The engagement referred to here actually occurred opposite Williamsport, Maryland, not Virginia.

lxxvi. Colonel Franz Sigel, who achieved the rank of Major General and became Commander of the Twelfth Army Corps.

lxxvii. Confederate Brigadier General Robert S. Garnett. He was killed when he fought McClellan's forces at Carrick's Ford.

lxxviii. Henry Alexander Wise (1808-1876), was governor of Virginia from 1856 to 1860 and signed the death warrant of John Brown.

lxxix. Samuel P. Heintzelman who rose to the rank of Major General and Commander of the Third Army.

lxxx. Brig. Gen. Nathaniel Lyon.

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lxxxii. Jacob Dolson Cox, brigadier general of volunteers in the early part of the Civil War.

lxxxiii. Jerome Bonaparte (1764-1860), Napoleon's youngest brother.

lxxxiv. General Pierre G. T. Beauregard.

lxxxv. General Joseph E. Johnston.

lxxxvi. Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States of America (the Confederacy).

lxxxvii. Brig. Gen. Ben McCulloch.

lxxxviii. John Letcher (1813-1884), Governor of Virginia, 1860-1864.

lxxxix. Major General David Hunter.

lxxx. Major General William S. Rosecrans.

xc. Col. James W. Wall was arrested by U.S. Marshal for the District of New Jersey, B. Deacon, on a warrant issued by the Secretary of War and was taken by train to Fort Lafayette. Apparently "he threatened loudly to kill the Secretary of War on the first opportunity." (Norristown Herald, Sept. 17, 1861).

xc. Confederate Major General Sterling Price.

xcii. Brigadier General Felix J. Zollicoffer.

xciii. Breckenridge held the rank of Major General in the Confederate Army.

xciv. The clipping Doctor Corson pasted in his diary, **THE TRUTH AT LAST, a defence for the Men of the Fourth Regiment Penna. Volunteers.** (THREE MONTHS SERVICE) has this introductory paragraph:

We copy the following article from the Philadelphia Inquirer, of Wednesday last, and publish it as an act of simple justice to the men of the late Fourth Regiment:

On the margin Corson wrote that not only the public but also of the men of the fourth, "many deemed it a very fine production. Many are being sent to Col. Hartranft's regiment, now at Roanoke Island.

xcv. At this point in the diary, Doctor Corson pasted a published picture of the hospital captioned, **VIEW OF THE ARMY HOSPITAL, CORNER OF BROAD AND CHERRY STREETS, PHILADELPHIA.**-SKETCHED AND ENGRAVED FOR THE WAR PRESS.



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Under it Corson wrote, "This is the ward in which Joseph is medical cadet. He is seen here by the side of Dr. Yarron, and taking notes of the case before them. He looks to have quite a moustache."

xcvi. Designed by John Ericsson.

xcvii. The newspaper clipping is a statement by J. M. McKim that he has in his hand a \$10 bill from George Corson of Montgomery County, who knows he is dying of consumption, which concluded, "a truer-hearted man and a more devoted friend of the slave is not to be found within the bounds of this Society."

xcviii. John Evans of Radnor township, Delaware county, died April 5, 1862, according to the newspaper clipping of his obituary pasted in the diary under April 7, 1862.

xcix. The entire clipping, one long column, is reproduced here:

**The Negro Regiment of South Carolina- Explanation of General Hunter**

The following Correspondence was laid before the House to-day, the reading of some parts of which occasioned much merriment:

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON CITY, D.C.

July 2, 1862

SIR: On reference to the answer of this Department, of the 14th ultimo, to the Resolution of the House of Representatives, of the 9th of last month, calling for information respecting the organization, by General HUNTER, of the Department of South Carolina, of a regiment of volunteers for the defense of the Union, composed of black men, fugitive slaves, &c., it will be seen that the resolution had been referred to that officer, with instructions to make an immediate report thereon. I have now the honor to transmit, herewith, the copy of a communication just received from General HUNTER, furnishing information as to his action touching the various matters indicated in the resolution.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

Hon. G.A. Grow, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH,

PORT ROYAL, S.C., June 23.

*Hon. Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War, Washington, D.C.:*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a communication from the Adjutant General of the Army, dated June 13, 1862, requesting me to furnish you with the information necessary to answer certain resolutions introduced in the House of Representatives on June 9, 1862, on motion of Hon. Mr. Wickliffe, of Kentucky, their substance being to inquire-

1. Whether I had organized, or was organizing, a regiment of fugitive slaves in this department?

2. Whether any authority had been given to me from the War Department for such organization? and

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3. Whether I had been furnished, by order of the War Department, with clothing, uniforms, arms, equipments, &c. for such a force.

Only having received the letter containing these inquiries at a late hour on Saturday night, I urge forward my answer in time for the steamer sailing to-day (Monday). This haste prevents me from entering as minutely as I could wish upon many points of detail, such as the paramount importance of the subject calls for; but, in view of the near termination of the present session of Congress, and the wide-spread interest which must have been awakened by Mr. Wickliffe's resolution, I prefer sending even this imperfect answer to waiting the period necessary for the collection of fuller and more comprehensive data.

To the first question, therefore, I reply that no regiment of fugitive slaves has been or is being organized in this department. There is, however, a fine regiment of persons whose late masters are "fugitive rebels," men who everywhere fly before the appearance of the national flag, leaving their servants behind them, to shift, as best they can, for themselves. So far, indeed, are the loyal persons composing this regiment from seeking to avoid the presence of their late owners, that they are now, one and all, working with remarkable industry to place themselves in a position to join in full and effective pursuit of their fugacious and traitorous proprietors.

To the second question I have the honor to answer, that the instructions given to Brig. Gen. T. W. Sherman, by the Hon. Simon Cameron, late Secretary of War, and turned over to me by succession, for my guidance, do distinctly authorize me to employ all loyal persons offering their services in defence of the Union, and for the suppression of this rebellion, in any manner I might see fit, or that the circumstances might call for. There is no restriction as to the character or color of the persons to be employed, or the nature of the employment, whether civil or military, in which their services shall be used. I conclude, therefore, that I have been authorized to enlist fugitive slaves as soldiers, could any such be found in this department. No such characters, however, have yet appeared within view of our most advanced pickets, the loyal slaves everywhere remain on their plantations to welcome us, aid us, and supply us with food, labor, and information. It is the masters who have, in every instance, been the fugitives, running away from the loyal slaves as well as from loyal soldiers, and whom we have only partially been able to see, chiefly their head over ramparts, or, rifle in hand, dodging behind trees in the extreme distance. In the absence of any fugitive (master) law, the deserted slaves would be wholly without remedy, had not the crime of treason given them the right to pursue, capture, and bring back, those persons, of whose protection they have been thus suddenly bereft.

To the third interrogatory, it is my painful duty to reply that I have never received any specific authority for issues of clothing, uniforms, arms, equipments, and so forth, to the troops in question. My general instructions from Mr. Cameron to employ them in any manner I might find necessary, and the military exigencies of the department being my only, but in my judgment sufficient, justification. Neither have I had any specific authority for supplying these persons with shovels, spades, and pickaxes, upon employing them as laborers-with boats and oars, when using them as lighter men; but these are not points included in Mr. Wickliffe's resolution.

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To me it seemed that the liberty to employ men in any particular capacity implied with it liberty, also, to supply them with the necessary tools, and, acting upon this faith, I have clothed, equipped, and armed the only loyal regiment yet raised in South Carolina. I must say, in vindication of my own conduct, that, had it not been for the many other diversified and imperative claims on my time and attention, a much more satisfactory result might have been hoped for, and that, in place of only one, as at present, at least five or six well-drilled, brave, and thoroughly-acclimated regiments should, by this time, have been added to the loyal forces of the Union. The experiment of arming blacks, so far as I have made it, has been a complete and even marvellous success. They are sober, docile, attentive, and enthusiastic, displaying great natural capacities for acquiring the duties of the soldier. They are eager, beyond all things, to take the field, and be led into action, and it is the unanimous opinion of the officers who have had charge of them, that in the peculiarities of this climate and country, they will prove invaluable auxiliaries, fully equal to the similar regiments so long and successfully used by the British authorities, in the West India Islands.

In conclusion, I would say it is my hope, there appearing no possibility of other reinforcements, owing to the exigencies of the campaign in the Peninsula, to have organized by the end of next fall, and to be able to present the Government from 48,000 to 50,000 of these hardy and devoted soldiers.

Trusting that this letter may form part of your answer to Mr. Wickliffe's resolution, I have the honor to be,

D. HUNTER  
Major General Commanding.

c. Doctor Corson pasted a newspaper clipping of the obituary at the end of his diary book No. 3 with this annotation: "Below is an obituary written on the death of our long time ago friend Mrs. Eliza Stewart Smith. When I began practice I spent many pleasant hours with her husband and herself at their home on Chestnut Hill. She died Sep. 10th, 1862. H. Corson."

ci. Doctor Corson pasted a full page from the Germantown Telegraph in his diary at this point. It details **THE LATE GREAT BATTLES**, including the Battle of Antietam Creek with **TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND MEN IN DEADLY CONFLICT**. The same page listed the now numbered army corps and their commanders

First Army Corps..	Maj. Gen. Hooker.
Second " "	Maj. Gen. Sumner.
Third " "	Maj. Gen. Heintzelman.
Fourth " "	Maj. Gen. Keyes.
Fifth " "	Maj. Gen. Fitz John Porter.
Sixth " "	Maj. Gen. Franklin.
Seventh " "	Maj. Gen. Dix.
Eight " "	Maj. Gen. Wool.
Ninth " "	Maj. Gen. Burnside.
Tenth " "	Maj. Gen. Mitchell.
Eleventh " "	Maj. Gen. Sedgwick.
Twelfth " "	Maj. Gen. Sigel.

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<sup>cii</sup> Dr. D. Francis Condie, a very respected physician in Philadelphia and a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania. He was noted for editing *Churchill's Midwifery* and serving as president of the Philadelphia County Medical Society (1855) and as president of the Pennsylvania Medical Society. He died in 1876.

<sup>ciii</sup> Captain Richard R. Corson, son of Charles Corson of Arcola. Once when he was sent out foraging, Capt. Corson was asked by General Patrick where he was from. He answered AHogtown,@ which was the nickname for Shannonville, now Audubon. He was court-martialed for insubordination. When he defended himself and explained and General Hancock confirmed that the place was popularly called AHogtown,@ the case was dismissed. He was later promoted to major.

<sup>civ</sup> General George Dashiell Bayard who died of wounds received in the Battle of Fredericksburg.

<sup>cv</sup> No. 290, as it was then known, was the second vessel built in Liverpool by the Laird brothers under secretly negotiated contracts with the Confederate Navy. These so-called merchant ships were built to be later armed in friendly ports. The No.290 left Liverpool on July 29, 1862, proceeded to the Azores where she was armed to serve as a Confederate raider.

<sup>cvi</sup> George Stoneman who actually held the rank of Brig. General at that time. He had been a Major of the 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Cavalry (May 9, 1861), was transferred to the 4<sup>th</sup> U.S. Cavalry on August 3, 1861 and appointed Brig. General on August 13, 1861. He became Maj. General of U.S. Volunteers on November 29, 1862, led the III Corps at Fredericksburg. Commanding the newly established Cavalry Corps, he led the Stoneman's Raids (Chancellorsville campaign). He retired as a Major General with a disability. President Grant reduced his rank to Colonel and reduced his pension when he learned that Stoneman's disability was merely hemorrhoids and not service related.

<sup>cvii</sup> Clement Laird Vallandigham (1820-1871) was arrested after his May 1, 1863 speech at Mt. Vernon, Ohio, in which he stated that the Civil War was fought to free the Negroes and enslave the whites and not to save the Union. General Burnside had him arrested accusing him of violating AGeneral Order No. 38.@ Vallandigham was court-martialed, sentenced to be imprisoned for the duration of the war, but the sentence was commuted to banishment behind Confederate lines by President Lincoln. From the Confederacy, he went to Canada and from there returned to the United States and Awas allowed to go unmolested.@ He was the most prominent leader of the Copperheads, Northerners sympathetic to the South during the Civil War. They were especially strong in the mid-west (Illinois, Indiana, Ohio).

<sup>cviii</sup> Fungus Hematodes is a fungating, soft, bleeding malignant tumor of the breast.

<sup>cix</sup> The letter pasted in the diary was this:

Head Quarters, Pennsylvania Militia  
HOSPITAL DEPARTMENT

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Harrisburg, 1863

I am authorized to organize Volunteer Corps of Surgeons to render aid to the wounded immediately after a battle. The members of this Corps are to hold themselves in readiness for immediate attendance, when notified by telegraph, to guarantee to serve for at least 15 days, to receive, or not, at their pleasure the compensation allowed to Surgeons employed under contract by the Medical Department of the United States Army, and to be subject to the orders of the U.S. Medical authorities.

Shall I have the pleasure of enrolling your name as a member of the Corps, subject to the approval of the Surgeon General of the United States.

I have the honor to be  
Very Respectfully,  
Jas. King  
Surg. Genl., Penna.

Hiram Corson, MD  
Plymouth Meeting P.O.  
Montgomery County.

<sup>cx</sup> Incendiary material used in warfare, first said to be used by the Greeks of Byzantium.

<sup>cx</sup><sub>i</sub> Neal Dow (1804-1897), considered to be the Father of Prohibition, was a colonel of the 13<sup>th</sup> Maine Volunteer Infantry and became Brigadier General of the US Volunteers.

<sup>cx</sup><sub>ii</sub> The letter with editorial as printed in the Republican is pasted in the diary at this point. It is from Capt. Tom G., Camp, 8<sup>th</sup> Regt. VA. Vols. to Miss Cora L.\_\_\_\_, Richmond, VA.

<sup>cx</sup><sub>iii</sub> A solution of ammonium acetate, named after the German physician Raymond Minderer (1570?-1621).

<sup>cx</sup><sub>iv</sub> Iron sulfate is an astringent tonic.

<sup>cx</sup><sub>v</sub> . Bellocq's Canula is a curved instrument used to plug the posterior nares for nosebleeds. It is named for the French surgeon Jean Jacques Bellocq (1732-1807).

<sup>cx</sup><sub>vi</sub> Major John Hancock, younger brother of General W. S. Hancock.

<sup>cx</sup><sub>vii</sub> . Maj. Gen. Edward R. S. Canby (1817-73) was born in Kentucky. He made his reputation when he repulsed (1862) the Confederate invasion into New Mexico. In 1864 he was promoted to major general and assigned to command the Military Division of West Mississippi.

<sup>cx</sup><sub>viii</sub> Brig. Gen. Stephen O. Burbridge of the First Brigade, Tenth Division, Third Army Corps, served in the Vicksburg area. In December, 1864 he captured Bristol, Virginia, driving the Confederate General Basil W. Duke towards Abingdon. Under order of General George Stoneman, Burbridge pushed on to Abingdon.

<sup>cx</sup><sub>ix</sub> From Northampton County, according to the Pennsylvania East 1860 Census.

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<sup>cxx</sup> Dr. F. Gauntt of Burlington, a member of the Standing Committee of the New Jersey Medical Society and a delegate to the Corresponding Society New York.

<sup>cxxi</sup> General Alfred Howe Terry (1827-1890) commanded a regiment of Connecticut volunteers at the first battle of Bull Run. He became a brigadier general of volunteers in 1862. In January, 1865 he captured Fort Fisher for which he was promoted to major general of volunteers and made a brigadier general in the regular army.

<sup>cxxii</sup> Admiral David Dixon Porter (1813-1891) was born in Chester, Pennsylvania. His first command was the Spitfire, in the Mexican War. He led the mortar flotilla of the Union fleet under Farragut in the successful assault on New Orleans in 1862. His services on the Mississippi River were rewarded with the promotion to rear admiral. He took part in the Red River expedition in 1864. After that he was given the command of the North Atlantic Blockading Squadron. He became superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy (1865-69), was promoted to vice admiral in 1866 and full admiral in 1870.

<sup>cxxiii</sup> Major General Philip H. Sheridan. He assumed command of the Army of the Shenandoah on August 7, 1864.

<sup>cxxiv</sup> Lieutenant General Jubal A. Early.

<sup>cxxv</sup> The Proclamation of May 2, 1865 lists the following reward:

One hundred thousand dollars for the arrest of Jefferson Davis.

Twenty-five thousand dollars for the arrest of Clement C. Clay.

Twenty-five thousand dollars for the arrest of Jacob Thompson.

Twenty-five thousand dollars for the arrest of George N. Saunders.

Twenty-five thousand dollars for the arrest of Beverly Tucker.

Ten thousand dollars for the arrest of William C. Cleary, late clerk of Clement.

The Proclamation stated that WHEREAS it appears, from the evidence in the Bureau of Military Justice, that the atrocious murder of the late President, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, and the attempted assassination of the Honorable WILLIAM H. SEWARD, Secretary of State, were incited, concerted, and procured by and between Jefferson Davis, late of Richmond, Virginia, and Jacob Thompson, Clement C. Clay, Beverly Tucker, George N. Saunders, William C. Cleary, and other rebels and traitors against the Government of the United States, harbored in Canada.

<sup>cxxvi</sup> Lieutenant General Wade Hampton of the Confederate Army. He succeeded General J. E. B. Stuart as leader of the Southern cavalry.

<sup>cxxvii</sup> Dry cupping (without abstraction of blood) is a form of counter-irritation that was used mainly in inflammatory affections of the lung.

<sup>cxxviii</sup> Dr. Culter is not the inventor of the laryngoscope. It was invented in 1830 by Benjamin Guy Babington, a British physician. Dr. Culter is the Aauthor@ of the use of the laryngoscope as presented in Dr. Smith's private room.

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<sup>cxxix</sup> The poem is titled “NEW YEAR’S GREETING,” written by Octavia and prefaced by Tennyson’s “There’s a new foot on the floor, my friend, And a new face at the door, my friend, A new face at the door.”

<sup>cxxx</sup> Mercury bichloride.

<sup>cxxxi</sup> Bronchovesicular respiration.

<sup>cxxxii</sup> Potassium nitrate.

<sup>cxxxiii</sup> No Dr. Mower is listed as having attended the seventeenth annual meeting held in Wilkes-Barre, June 13, 1866. A Dr. H. Mower is listed in the *Transactions of the Medical Society of the State of Pennsylvania* at its twenty-second annual session held at Williamsport in June, 1871. It lists H. Mower of Boiling Springs, Cumberland County. The Wilkes-Barre meeting in 1866 was attended by “sixty-nine delegates, members and representatives from the counties of Allegheny, Berks, Blair, Bradford, Bucks, Carbon, Columbia and Montour, Dauphin, Lehigh, Lancaster, Lycoming, Luzerne, Montgomery, Northampton, Perry, Philadelphia, Schuylkill, Susquehenna, Wayne, Westmoreland, and the State of New York.” Even though Dr. Corson clearly wrote Mower, he may have referred to Dr. R. B. Mowry of Allegheny City, Allegheny County. Allegheny City existed from 1840 to 1907 and is now part of Pittsburgh.

<sup>cxxxiv</sup> On the previous page in the diary is pasted a newspaper clipping in which is stated that in a recent letter to “The Friend,” the poet John G. Whittier stated his religious belief, that “he regards Christianity as a life rather than a creed, and in judging of his fellow-men, can use no other standard than that which the Bible gives us.”

<sup>cxxxv</sup> Barium quarry.

<sup>cxxxvi</sup> John White Geary (1819-1873).

<sup>cxxxvii</sup> Weiss, M. Charles, History of the French Protestant Refugees, from the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes to Our Own Days, Translated by Henry William Herbert, New York, Stringer & Townsend, 1854.

<sup>cxxxviii</sup> The clipping is a letter to the editor of the Sunday Dispatch titled **The Governor and his Physician**. It is a reaction to Governor Curtis going to New York for medical advice and treatment. Dr. Corson pointed out that Philadelphia and Pennsylvania had unsurpassed physicians in all areas of medical practice and mentioned numerous prominent, eminent physicians in each of the medical specialties. He signed the letter A TRUE PENNSYLVANIAN.

<sup>cxxxix</sup> Dr. Andrew Nebinger of Philadelphia.

<sup>cxl</sup> The newspaper clipping is a letter to the Editor of the Evening News, titled The Raleigh Disaster, dated Jan. 2, 1868, by D. M. Kean. In it he points out that “There was a

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great quantity of pine wood piled up on each side of the boiler” and that in two of the larger lifeboats “there was always the spare parts and ropes and all other old gear stowed, with big wooden covers over them, whereas at all times they ought to be ready to launch at a moment’s notice.”

<sup>cxli</sup> The newspaper clippings are three columns written by Grace Greenwood, recounting the times she and her little daughter met President Lincoln, and how the President remembered and greeted her. The fourth column is titled EARTHQUAKES, HURRICANES, ERUPTIONS and recounts and discusses how numerous they have “occurred since October last.”

<sup>cxlii</sup> The Lincoln funeral procession in Philadelphia.

<sup>cxliii</sup> Susan Foulke Corson, married Jaywood Lukens, son of Lewis A. Lukens.

<sup>cxliv</sup> Bertha E. Corson, married James Yocom, son of James Yocom of Philadelphia.

<sup>cxlv</sup> Tacy Foulke Corson, married William L. Cresson, son of James and Mary L. Cresson.

<sup>cxlv</sup> Susan Foulke Corson, married Jaywood Lukens, son of Lewis A. Lukens.

<sup>cxlvi</sup> Frances Stockton Corson, married to Richard Hopper Day, son of Charles and Anna (Miles) Day.

<sup>cxlvii</sup> Charles Follen Corson, youngest of the three sons born to Dr. Hiram Corson and his wife Ann Jones Foulke.

<sup>cxlviii</sup> Mary Corson, the youngest child of Dr. Hiram Corson and his wife Ann Jones Foulke.

<sup>cxlix</sup> Joseph Kirby Corson, married Mary Ada Carter, daughter of Judge William Alexander Carter of Fort Bridger, Wyoming Territory.

<sup>cl</sup> Nathan Detera/Dettra, a close neighbor of Dr. Hiram Corson.

<sup>cli</sup> Captain Jouett captured the Selma in Mobile Bay.

<sup>clii</sup> Halberstadt, A. H., Pottsville.

<sup>cliii</sup> Carpenter, Henry, Lancaster, Lancaster.

<sup>cliv</sup> King, Wm, Monongahela City, Washington.

<sup>clv</sup> Ligation of the umbilical cord.



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clvi The actual invitation is pasted in this part of the diary. It is addressed to Dr. C. Corson, Conshohocken and was sent by the Commissioners Joseph A. Reed, MD, Traill Green, MD, and John Curwen, MD.

clvii Tincture of *Veratrum viride* was used as a vasodilator to treat hypertension.

clviii Vedette, defined in military terms as “a mounted sentinel posted in advance of the outposts of an army.”

clix Nathan Detera/Dettra.

clx Ole Bornemann Bull (1810-1880), Norwegian violinist.

clxi Doctors John L. Atlee and John L. Atlee, Jr. of Lancaster.

clxii Potassium hydroxide.

clxiii A mixture of the alkaloids cevadine, veratridine, and cevine, derived from cebadilla, the principal source of the alkaloid veratrin. This mixture is a drastic emetic and is poisonous.

clxiv Asafetida tincture, a powerful antispasmodic useful in bronchial affections.

clxv Rheumatic Erythema.

clxvi The Rev. R. Demme who served St. Peter’s Lutheran Church in Barren Hill from 1867 to the summer of 1871.

clxvii Dr. Francis Gurney Smith, Jr.

clxviii In his address, Dr. Stillé outlined why women are unfit for the medical profession in three categories, from a moral stand point, from the characteristics of women as a sex, and from the logic of reason and facts wanted.

clxix “In the year 1844, Sarah R. Adamson, of Chester County, Pa., a girl of Quaker parentage was impressed with the responsibility of womanhood at the early age of fifteen. The buoyant, merry, frolicsome spirit of her childhood had failed to be subdued by the strict *regime* of Quaker training. But now a quiet, thoughtful dignity possessed her, as day after day she was asking herself, ‘What can woman do to secure for herself a livelihood in a way in which hitherto she has never been accustomed?’ And how many women have asked that question, and failing to find an answer, have submitted themselves to the inevitable sewing or teaching?

It was an easy matter for Sarah to see that the sons of a family were provided with congenial and profitable employment, while the girls were left quietly at home, to bide the time when some modern knight should come and transport them to a little world of their own.

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About this time, Grace Anna Lewis, of the Society of Friends, and a woman who always acted nobly in a quietly daring manner, opened a select school in the vicinity, and Sarah was enrolled among her pupils. Ever remembering that a long time of study must intervene before she should enter upon her future work, she applied herself most faithfully.

For a time she copied legal papers for a relative, but such purely mechanical work was unsatisfactory. She turned her attention toward mechanics, and wondered why women could not adjust the delicate machinery of watches with equal skill and perfection as when done by men. But as each new plan and idea was considered, it found no response from her heart, which was asking for a just, true, and rightful position, which would develop the whole being.

One day her teacher, ever awake to the interest and advancement of her pupils, inquired if she would not like to study physiology. This was a long word to Sarah, and a new one, so she took the book home with her to decide. That evening, in the quiet of her room, she opened the book and began to read. The chapter on digestion absorbed her; then that on the circulation of the blood. She read on and on, the book fascinating her like some splendid romance, until, in her enthusiasm, she exclaimed 'Eureka,' and sought her pillow with the peacefulness that comes from a solved problem. The study of medicine was to be her work, the practice of it her ambition, and suffering humanity her household. From this decision she never wavered; but although thoroughly bent upon this career, she kept her own course, for, like a true Quaker as she was, she talked little, thought much and acted more.

After the close of Miss Lewis' term of school, in which Sarah had completed the work on physiology, she was sent to the Friends' Central School of Philadelphia to pursue her academic studies. Here she continued physiology, but being unsatisfied with that branch of medicine, procured from the public library 'Wistar's Anatomy,' in two volumes, to which she devoted herself after her other studies for the day were over. This work unilluminated and unexplained by a single plate or diagram, she attentively read and studied. On another occasion she discovered, in a worn and antiquated library of a friend, a work on midwifery, and another on the diseases of women, which, at her request, were loaned her, and which she most thoroughly perused. During the three years thus passed away, she found time to read other medical works, while her enthusiasm steadily increased. At eighteen the desire to study medicine was so great, that she could no longer conceal it from her parents. Upon returning home, she informed them of her desire, and begged their approval. The matter was taken into anxious consideration, and with less of prejudice, less of fear of public opinion than if her parents had been other Quakers, a full consent was given, with but one condition. This came from her father, and was, 'Sarah, thee must not fail.'

Application was now made to her uncle, Dr. Hiram Corson, to receive his niece as a student of medicine. His reply was the following:

'MY DEAR NIECE: I would have written sooner if my mind had been made up upon the subject of thy studying. It is without any controversy, a new step. We must, therefore, look to the motives and objects. It is not easy for me to arrive at the secret motives, and perhaps the real ones. The end, or object, is professedly to practice. But

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for what? Money? Honor? A name? If so, will the end be attained, and in a way that would be desirable? Or is it rather to introduce a new custom, one more consonant with common sense, and which will be to the mutual advantage of the sexes, and of course of general society? This, I doubt not, is the real motive of thy studying. That is perhaps the strongest inducement, for one who loves her kind, to engage in a new pursuit, in which she will most certainly meet with obstacles of great magnitude, and contempt and scorn in abundance. For succeed as she may, in the practice of her profession, it will only be after many years have passed, and she has gathered a crowd of followers in her train, that she will rise above the character and name of midwife. It was so with Mesdames Roivin and La Chapelle, who surpassed all competitors in the practice of obstetrics, although they were not more exclusively confined to that branch than were many males. But I expect to see thee soon, and will tell all about it. In the meantime pursue thy studies with zeal. I will bring thee a work on psychology.

Very truly thine,

HIRAM CORSON.'

This letter was written, not so much to quench the ardor of his niece, as to become satisfied of her stability of purpose, and also to prepare her for the stern lessons of ridicule, contempt, and opposition which his experienced physician's eye saw she must meet and encounter. After a full discussion of the subject, finding that she was inflexible, he gave her every encouragement, and, as her preceptor, soon had the satisfaction of seeing that her zeal was untiring and her ardor unabated.

Her work now began in earnest, and it was a custom with her mother to go to her room daily to look after the fire, for so absorbed was Sarah in her studies, that she forgot it was winter, or that the fire was needed.

The season for the study passed, and the long-looked-for day arrived when collegiate advantages were to be enjoyed. The first application was made in July, 1849, to the Philadelphia college of Medicine. After some correspondence, the following refusal was received:

'DEAR DR. CORSON: The chief ground of objection appears to be the restraint it would impose on some of the lectures. Dr. McClintock says he could not lecture upon many topics connected with anatomy and surgery in the presence of a woman. The same difficulty would present itself to many other professors. Moreover, a young institution like this cannot afford to incur injury by declaring itself independent of public opinion. That women should be taught the science of medicine, and that they should practice, especially in obstetrics, I have long insisted. But the propriety of young men and young women attending lectures together, on all branches, is another question, &c.'

The second application was made the following month to the Pennsylvania Medical College, with a similar result. The Jefferson Medical College also received an application, which elicited a trifle more attention, but with no more favorable result. The Dean went on to say:

'I think it would be impossible in this country for a lady to mingle with five hundred young men, gentlemen though they may be, in the same lecture room, without experiencing many annoyances. A little of this was felt last winter. A lady who had graduated at Geneva College, accompanied Prof. Lee, of that institution, to, to this city,

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and desired to be present at some of the lectures of the two large schools. Dr. Wood, I am told, shrank from taking her into his lecture, and although Dr. Chapman performed that act of gallantry, he accompanied the introduction with sundry witticisms, that must have tried the nerves of his fair guest; and still a considerable sensation was produced. She attended one lecture also at our college. She attended; but the veteran professor to whom she listened deemed it prudent that she should not appear before the class, but placed her in a small room adjoining, where she could hear the lecture without being observed.'

One and another of the medical schools were applied to, but in vain. That at Geneva alone remained, and an application was made to this. The college which had honored itself in conferring the degree of M.D. upon Elizabeth Blackwell now replied in the negative. 'Miss Blackwell's admission was an experiment, not intended as a precedent,' wrote the Dean, Dr. James Hadley.

Disappointment hovered over all around. But to look backward seemed as impossible as to look forward. Finally it was determined that she should continue her studies in Philadelphia under a private tutor, where she could receive instruction in practical anatomy. In pursuance of this object, she was received into the family of Dr. Edwin Fussell, who afterward became Professor of Anatomy in the Woman's College of Philadelphia. Scarcely had her studies begun in this direction, when her uncle's attention was directed to an advertisement of the Central Medical College of New York, at Syracuse, with the remarkable announcement that a class of ladies would be received. This was an institution of which her uncle knew nothing, but upon writing to the Dean, he received a most favorable reply and satisfactory references. But not until Miss Adamson arrived in Syracuse, accompanied by another uncle, Dr. William Corson, did she ascertain that the college was eclectic. Miss Adamson having studied under tutors of the regular school of medicine, had grave objections to matriculating in an irregular one. But the regular schools were closed against her, and she was obliged to accept this as the only one available. Eclecticism was then in its infancy, and the text books used in the institution were the same standard works as those used in universities of the regular stripe.

In 1851 Miss Adamson finished her course with honor, and received the degree of doctor of medicine- the second one conferred upon a woman. In April of the same year she returned to Philadelphia, with the hope of spending a year in Blockley Hospital. Through the magnanimity of Dr. Elder she obtained the requisite political references, which assured her admission to the hospital, as political as well as medical references were needed to operate successfully on the board of managers. During her year in that hospital she received uniform courtesy and kindness from the board, as well as from Dr. Haines, chief of resident physician. As she was the only representative of her sex, it could hardly be expected that her presence would be tolerated without bitter opposition from some students. Be it recorded, however, that only two of the number felt themselves called upon to protest against the outrage done to their honor as physicians by admitting a woman to the hospital. And their protestations, however, operated greatly in Miss Adamson's favor; and when, at the close of the year, she sent a letter of thanks to the Board, thanking them for their kindness and generosity, she received in return the same certificate from this body as that awarded to the male physicians.

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Soon after leaving Blockley Hospital, she was united in marriage to Dr. L. C. Dolley, to whom she had long been affianced; and Rochester, N.Y., was fixed upon as their future home, and where it continues to be. The reader is not for a moment to entertain the idea that in marriage the medical career of this brave woman culminated, or rather terminated. For sixteen years she has enjoyed a wide and extensive practice, full of interest and usefulness. We need only add that Mrs. Dolley has exemplified her fitness for wife and motherhood as fully as she did her fitness for a medical pioneer; which is praise enough.”

<sup>clxx</sup> This time the resolution to rescind was not introduced by Dr. Corson. The official transactions of the Williamsport session, published by the Society and printed in Philadelphia by Collings, 705 Jayne Street in Philadelphia, records the following:

“DR. TRAILL GREEN, of Northampton, moved to rescind the resolution adopted at the session in 1860, as follows:

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of this Society, that members of the regular profession cannot, consistently with sound medical ethics, consent to hold professional intercourse with the professors or graduates of female medical colleges as at present constituted, inasmuch as some of the professors are irregular practitioners, and all of these are ineligible to representation in the American Medical Association.

Dr. J. Solis Cohen, of Philadelphia, moved a proviso- that nothing in the passage of this resolution shall be so construed as to commit the Medical Society of the State of Pennsylvania to acknowledging the right of Women’s Medical Colleges and Associations of Female Physicians to representation in this Society.

After some discussion by Dr. ATLEE, NEBINGER, and others, Dr. W. L. ATLEE again took the floor, and the hour of 12 having arrived, the Society adjourned until 3 P.M.

#### THURSDAY AFTERNOON

The Society met at 3 P.M., President Dr. S. D. Gross in the chair.

Dr. W. L. ATLEE claimed the floor, and was followed by Drs.

WORTHINGTON, NEBINGER, KIEFFER, and PARRISH.

A vote by ayes and nays having been demanded, the Permanent Secretary called the roll, and the motion to rescind was adopted with the proviso by the following vote:

AYES- W.H. Daly, T.W. Shaw, J.E. Jackson, J.A. Brobst, L.DeB. Kuhn, D.A. Ulrich, J.D.W. Henderson, John Fay, W.R. Findley, E.P. Allen, R.H. Ely, W. Worthington, J.P. Hassler, J. Swisher, P.M. Senderling, John Curwen, J.E. Bulkeley, J.B. Crawford, Jos. Parrish, J. Boon, F.R. Graham, S.G. Lane, B. Leaman, J.S. Crawford, E. Lyon, Saml. Pollock, S.S. Smith, J.O. McVicker, J.B. Livingston, S.M. Ross, J. Schrack, Wm. Corson, Hiram Corson, Traill Green, W.R. Cisna, W.L. Atlee, C.S. Boker, T.M. Drysdale, C. Førstige, Benj.

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Lee, Winthrop Sargent, A.H. Halberstadt, U. Long, G.S. Reagan, S. Birdsall, W.L. Richardson, C.K. Thompson, W.W. Webb, J.R. Arter, T.W. Egbert, B. Gillett- 55

NAYS- A. M. Pollock, W.F. Knox, J.H. Snodgrass, W.M. Weidman, D.S. Hays, S.B. Kieffer, E.B. Brandt, W.M. Wallace, W.S. Throckmorton, J.W. Hughes, W.D. Martin, J.H. Ræbuck, J.F.M. Forwood, A. Craig, A.C. Treichler, M.P. Morrison, W.H.H. Miller, A.F. Clark, H.D. LaCossett, S.S. Mehard, J. Swartz, L.K. Baldwin, L.S. Bolles, W.H. Bunn, H.Y. Evans, A.H. Fish, A. Frické, N. Hatfield, D.O. Crouch, S.L. Blachley, J.A. Landis, A.G.B. Hinkle, W.H. Atkinson, H. St. C. Ash, A. Nebinger, J.F. Treichler, S.W. Dayaton, H.A. Phillips, R.B. Smith, R. Crawford, R.V. Wilson- 45

clxxi On October 8, 1871, one of the worst recorded forest fires in North American history, destroyed the village of Peshtigo, located on the eastern shore of Wisconsin along Lake Michigan, with an estimated loss of 800 lives. The Great Chicago Fire occurred on the same fateful night.

clxxii Commonly used at that time to affect blood pressure.

clxxiii William P. Tonry, an analytical chemist in the Surgeon General's Office in Washington, DC.

clxxiv Dr. Silas Weir Mitchell (1829-1914), Philadelphia physician and founder and first president of the American Neurological Society.

clxxv Lavendula, or Lavender, from the flowers of *Lavandula vera*. Compd. Tinct. Lavendu consisted of the following parts: oil of lavender 8, oil of rosemary 2, cinnamon 18, cloves 4, nutmeg 10, red saunders 8, alcohol 680, water 270, dilute alcohol to make 1000. The usual dose was 1 ½ ounces.

clxxvi Emilio Castelar y Ripoll, President of Spain (1873-1874).

clxxvii Gentian Tincture Compound contains gentian 10 parts, bitter-orange peel 4, cardamom 1, dil. alcohol to make 100. Gentian, or Gentiana, is the root of *G. lutea* and *G. catesbaei*.

clxxviii From the root of *Aconitum napellus*. Its active principle is *Aconitin*. It is an antipyretic, diaphoretic, and diuretic, but greatly depresses the heart, respiration, circulation, and the nervous system.

clxxix Dr. W. P. Robinson of Hatboro, Montgomery County.

clxxx Cholera infantum, an acute disease of infants and children occurring in warm weather. It is characterized by gastric pain, vomiting, diarrhea, fever and prostration. Prolonged exposure to heat along with "errors in diet and hygiene" were considered the cause of the disease.

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clxxxi Delirium.

clxxxii George W. Steever. His daughter Mary K. married Dr. Thomas J. Corson.

clxxxiii In the September 17, 1875, entry, Dr. Corson clearly writes “Captn. Mock’s child.

clxxxiv Pulvis effervescens compound which contained 120 gr. Potassium bitartrate mixed with (in white paper) 35 grs. Tartaric acid, or (in blue paper) mixed with 40 grs. Sodium bicarbonate.

clxxxv Dr. R. L. Sibbet of Carlisle.

clxxxvi Heinrich Wahlen, accused of the Elm Station murder of Max Hugo Hoehne.

clxxxvii Dr. J. S. Shrawder. He was an active member of the Montgomery County, Pa., Medical Society.

clxxxviii Marie Edmé Patrice de MacMahon, chosen by the monarchist majority in the national assembly to succeed Adolphe Thiers in 1873 as president of France.